

Liberals draw back from breaking pact with Labour

Liberal MPs decided last night to maintain the parliamentary pact with the Government in spite of their announcement earlier in the day that the failure of most Labour MPs to support proportional representation in elections to the European Parliament was "calculated to destroy the Lib-Lab agreement".

Early recall of party assembly expected

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Liberal MPs contemplated breaking off their agreement to support the Government last night but decided to wait until they could find a more solid ground for divorce. They had been provoked to a higher pitch of dissent by the Labour left's part in Tuesday's heavy Commons defeat for proportional representation.

Mr Steel, the party leader, speaking on BBC television after his third meeting with the Prime Minister in 24 hours, conceded that it would be "difficult to keep the agreement going" in spite of his own wish to do so. He demurred at the suggestion that the party was waiting for a sharper issue.

But his colleagues say that Mr Steel has bowed to the view that the pact cannot continue for the rest of this parliamentary session, as he had hoped. They say the only remaining division among the 12 MPs who attended last night's final meeting was between those who thought the pact should end in January and those who thought it might end in April.

The lone rebel remains Mr Cyril Smith, who expressed disgust at his colleagues' antics yesterday. He said on BBC television that he believed there was "no price too small for David Steel to pay to carry on the pact".

Mr Smith showed perspicacity about his being an extraordinary day. After the morning's cancellation of the Parliamentary Labour Party's majority having "calculated to destroy the Lib-Lab agreement" (by their vote, the European Assembly Bill), the evening (a few meetings later) saw Liberals announcing Mr Thatcher's trap (the Conservative vote on PR). Mr Steel said: "We are not going to fall for that."

But Mr Steel, on television, clearly wanted viewers to fall for his view of the pact. He said that getting the economy right was all that mattered; for too long politicians had dodged difficult solutions. Now at last they had someone—Mr Callaghan's Government, evidently—who would take those decisions.

His critics should wait until the end of the day when they came out right and the party could draw some benefit.

Mr Steel would not say on television whether he would resign if they pressed for a quick end to the pact. But it is said that he did not need to.

It remains, however, that the way Labour MPs helped to defeat the PR vote in the debate on the European assembly elections Bill will trigger a calling of the party special assembly. Three leading Liberal officers are holding discussions and it is expected that by the end of the week they will announce the holding of an assembly in the new year.

It was not clear last night what precisely had persuaded the Liberals to draw back when earlier in the day they had seemed bent on plunging into whatever crisis might arise.

The 12 MPs at the morning meeting had unanimously proclaimed the failure of an overall majority of Labour's MPs to support the Government's PR proposal was, in the words of a press announcement "calculated to destroy the Lib-

Lab agreement". MPs present

confided that the pact was

dead but for the public presentation.

Mr Callaghan, apparently, did not offer the Liberals anything new when Mr Steel met him the second time. The Prime Minister held that the Government had lived up to its carefully written pledges.

The Liberals had to agree and concede that their real quarrel was with most of the left wing of the Labour Party.

So when Mr Steel returned it transpired that the weaker division of eight to four in favour of breaking the pact there and then (only Mr Ross, Mr Freud and Mr Howells were said to wish to fight on with the pact) was switched. Now, it was reported, there were six in favour of soldiering on the while, four against, with three abstentions, all taken only in informal soundings rather than votes.

With the Liberals' decision pending, the Government made clear that it would carry on its business of tackling inflation and unemployment and that it did not want an early election.

The day-long tension did not overtake the Government, which often fails to take the Liberals seriously in good time. But there was a gleam in the odd leading Tory eye and it would be a surprise if last night's Cabinet meeting did not discuss the matter.

A senior Tory suggested that Mrs Thatcher would put down a censure motion at the first opportunity in the new year. It was seen that she would have to, for combat's sake.

All that remains speculation until the Government decides to break off. Even then the Government is not in imminent danger, assuming that the 11 Scottish and three Welsh nationalists maintain their support over the two devolution Bills, for which the Government also enjoys the support of two more MPs of the separate Scottish Labour Party.

But if 13 Liberals vote against in future rather than for, the equation is of course, turned round by 25 votes.

Labour is, after all, in an overall minority of 14, having 308 seats in the Commons against 322 others.

That renders the Government much more precarious and liable to ambush than it has been in the past nine months.

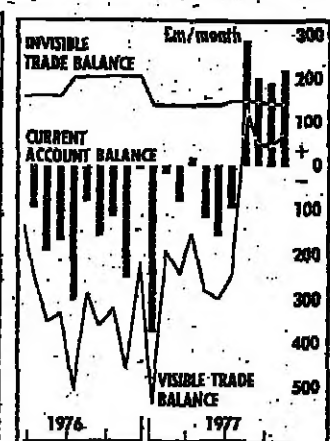
Unless the Government soon comes forward with new proposals to restore a measure of regional government to Northern Ireland Mr Callaghan will not be able to rely in the new year on the neutrality of the six Ulster Unionists led by Mr James Moynihan.

There may not seem to be many votes involved but they could mean the difference between victory or defeat on a confidence motion if cast against the Government.

"Good" will be needed", Mr Grimmond, the former Liberal leader, said on BBC television's *Nationwide* programme last night that he believed the Prime Minister had kept his part of the pact (the Press Association reports). It required good will on both sides.

Speaking before his party's MPs decided to continue the pact, he said he thought the Liberals should end it before the next general election, but did not think now was a good moment.

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£218m trade surplus in November

By Caroline Atkinson

Britain has had a healthy surplus on the trade and current accounts for the fourth month in succession.

The November £218m visible trade surplus (exports less imports of goods) was well above most City expectations. Together with the usual surplus on invisible trade this led to a £218m surplus on the current account of the balance of payments.

However, the continued financial improvement masks a much less encouraging picture of the real economy. Exports and imports fell during the month in value and volume.

In the first nine months of this year British exports earned a very good performance. Export growth outpaced that of the rest of the world and began to make up the losses in world trade shares of 1975 and 1976. This was in line with the hoped-for effects on British competitiveness of last year's drop in sterling.

However, since September export volumes have fallen by 1.2 per cent, while more than half of this fall last year's performance.

More serious is the fall in manufactured exports, especially in the three months ending November export volumes were down by 2.1 per cent on the previous three months.

Machinery and transport equipment exports were 7 per cent below the previous three months and metal goods were down by 10 per cent.

The rise in the pound in the past few months has had a significant impact on Britain's terms of trade, as the pound is worth more in terms of foreign currencies than it was a year ago. This means that imports are more expensive than exports.

Imports have been very depressed this year, perhaps reflecting the generally low level of demand in the economy.

However, within the total there have been some worrying increases in the volume of imports of finished manufactures. Overall imports of manufactures have been lower in the past three months because of a drop in machinery imports for the North Sea. Car imports have been extremely high.

In the latest three months there has been a turnaround of nearly £600m in Britain's current account from a deficit of £399m in the three months to August to a £170m surplus in the three months to November.

However, about £320m of the improvement is because of the more erratic elements of trade, and may not be repeated. Nevertheless, Britain's new surplus is a surprise, and likely to remain there throughout 1978.

Hopeful phase for economy, page 25

Cairo talks open as diplomatic interest switches to US

Mr Begin taking peace proposals approved by his ministers to President Carter

From Edward Mortimer
Cairo, Dec 14

The Cairo conference—officially a preparatory meeting for a Geneva peace meeting—began today in the ornate and air-conditioned dining room of the Meza Hotel, which was formerly a palace of Egypt's nineteenth century Khedives.

Overshadowed almost literally by the Giza Pyramids, the meeting was overshadowed metaphorically by the news that Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was on his way to America, and by speculation that President Sadat might join him there for a trilateral meeting with President Carter.

Egyptian officials said they had no knowledge of any such plan, but were careful not to rule it out, pointing out that Mr Sadat's visit to Israel last month was as much a surprise to them as to everyone else.

The action is in Washington now. Indeed, the congratulatory message to the delegates from Mr Begin as he set off on his mission "in the cause of peace" seemed to belie the statement made by his delegate, Dr Eliazah Ben-Elissar, who told the conference: "We, the countries involved in the conflict, can resolve the problems that have to be solved. If there is a lesson to be learnt from our long dispute, it is that peace cannot be made by proxy."

The opening meeting lasted only one hour, a good part of which was passed in silence while hundreds of journalists trooped through the room. The proceedings consisted simply of four short speeches by each of the four heads of delegation: Dr Eliazah Ben-Elissar for Egypt, Dr Ben-Elissar for Israel, Mr Alfred Atherton for the United States and Generalissimo Salasvuo for the United Nations.

Five empty places were left for the parties which have not accepted the Egyptian invitation. These were not labelled in deference to Israeli reluctance to sit down opposite even a table marked "P.L.O.". But Dr Megid, who also acts as chairman, named the PLO in his speech as one of the parties invited (along with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Soviet Union).

Outside the hotel nine flags flew, including those of both Israel and Palestine. (For a time the flag of North Yemen replaced that of Syria, but this mistake was quickly rectified.)

An absurd game of cat-and-mouse was played over the flags during the day. The Israeli delegation protested about the presence of an "unknown" flag (the Palestinian one).

The Egyptian delegates referred the complaint to the hotel management, who said the flag was not theirs. The Egyptian Foreign

Ministry, which had also supplied them with the Israeli flag, in the end all the flags and flagpoles were taken down.

Dr Ben-Elissar expressed his regret at "the absence in this city and from this table of all those who should be with us today, representatives of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan and an appropriate delegation of Palestinian Arabs", but he did not bother to pretend he regretted the absence of the Soviet Union.

All four delegates said they regarded the meeting as an important step forward in a process which they hoped would lead to a comprehensive settlement based on the principles established in Security Council Resolution 242.

For Dr Megid such a settlement would be one "whereby the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are fully realised so that peace and justice may prevail once more in the land and region". While Mr Ben-Elissar said the goal was

to translate the principles of Resolution 242 "into all the necessary elements of a peace treaty", including diplomatic relations, commerce, international cooperation and so on.

Dr Ben-Elissar concluded by evoking the Jeffersonian principle: "Enemies in war, in peace, friends. 'We want peace', Mr Ben-Elissar said, "and we shall be friends."

The conference is to resume in closed session tomorrow. But there was an informal meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and American representatives to thrash out further unresolved procedural problems.

The meeting still has no fixed agenda and both sides are on the watch for procedural details which, by forming a precedent, might prejudice future negotiations.

The Egyptians may have sidestepped "unnecessary formalities", as Dr Megid put it.

Continued on page 6, col 4



Mr George Ward: Jubilant.

Lords quash Acas appeal on Grunwick

By Craig Seton

Five Law Lords yesterday unanimously dismissed an appeal by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) and ruled in favour of the Grunwick company.

The Acas recommendation, based only on the opinions of workers on strike because Mr George Ward, managing director of Grunwick, had refused to give the names and addresses of employees, was dismissed by the court.

A strike for union recognition by more than a hundred Grunwick employees began 16 months ago. The strikers were dismissed by the company.

The Lords' decision, apart from virtually ending the strikers' hopes of reinstatement and Acas's chances of recognition, has wide implications for Acas, whose role some now see as undermined.

In the Lords' judgment, Lord Diplock said Acas was not entitled to make any recommendation for recognition as long as it remained in ignorance of the opinions held by a group of workers of significant size. He said it was not for the court to take it that an early report was necessary, and because it

Continued on page 2, col 1

Trafalgar adds to press interest

Trafalgar House group, which moved into Fleet Street with the purchase of Beaverbrook News, and subsequently added to its new publishing arm the magazine publishers Morgan Grampian, is now poised to take over *Investor's Chronicle*, the specialist City publication. The purchase price is about £1.4m. Profits and sales of *Investor's Chronicle* recently went into a slump, but Trafalgar believes the magazine has a bright future.

Brezhnev mystery

President Brezhnev was inexplicably absent yesterday when the country's economic plan and 1978 budget was presented to the Supreme Soviet. Mr Brezhnev, who is 71 on Monday, has also cancelled a meeting with Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, arranged for tomorrow in Moscow.

Rebels to free hostages

The eight French hostages held by the Western Sahara Polisario Front are to be freed "soon", a report said in Paris. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, was informed by the Front of its decision. It is thought that the rebels have realised that the continued detention of the hostages would do their cause more harm than good.

Pakistan 164 for two

Pakistan were 164 for two against England at the close of play on the first day of the first Test match at Lahore. Miller and Old took the two wickets in successive overs just before the lunch interval.

John Woodcock, page 7

White voting proposal upsets Rhodesia blacks

Prospects dimmed for an early settlement between Mr Ian Smith's Government and three groups of black nationalists. Although negotiations are continuing, the delegates emerged story-faced from yesterday's session in Salisbury. Apparently Mr Smith had insisted that one out of every three MPs should be elected by whites only, with blacks voting separately for two-thirds of the seats.

Dollar hits new lows

The dollar again had a bad day on the European foreign exchanges falling to new lows against the Swiss franc and Deutsche mark in hectic trading. One dealer in Frankfurt described trading as "unbelievably crazy". In London the dollar also slipped with the result that the pound closed at just under \$1.85, 70 points up.

Planning order withdrawn

The Government is withdrawing the controversial Town and Country Planning General Development Order for further consideration. It was intended to relax planning controls and was expected to reduce the number of applications.

Tri-ang in receivership

A receiver has been appointed for Tri-ang Pedigree, the toys and prams company rescued by Airfix with government help in 1975. Airfix, which owns 56 per cent, informed the Department of Industry, which is the other shareholder, that it was not prepared to take up any further shares without more government support.

Canary Islands: Two policemen were shot dead on the second day of rioting following the killing of a student.

Greece: Last month's swing to the left is analysed in a six-page Special Report 10-15

Business News, pages 24-31

Stock markets: Share prices rallied on the trade figures and the FT index, 9.7 down at one stage, closed just 2.9 lower at 474.6.

Financial Editor: The spending spree at Trafalgar; Guinness: The question of earnings quality; Glits: The Bank calls for restraint

Business features: John Whitmore and Nicholas Hirst look at the organisations and men who manage the vast corporate pension funds; Mervyn Wanklyn, in the weekly Economic Notebook, examines public expenditure

Business diary: A £1m storm in a pint pot

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Dutch millionaire given 15-year prison term for part in massacres of Jews

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Dec 14

Pieter Nicolas Menten, the 78-year-old Dutch millionaire and art collector, was sentenced to 15 years in jail by an Amsterdam court today for his part in the mass murders in 1941 of Polish nationals, mainly Jews, in the village of Podhorodce which was occupied by the Germans. The village is now part of the Soviet Union.

He was acquitted because of lack of evidence of having taken part in the mass murders in another village. The public prosecutor had asked for a life sentence.

The court found it impossible after 36 years to reconstruct exactly the role played by Mr Menten in the massacre. But Mr Menten's responsibility was considered to be so great that the 15-year term was warranted.

The main findings are that seven companies were paying some employees below the poverty datum line (PDL) which is defined as the lowest possible amount on which a family can live under humanly decent conditions in the short run; 49 were paying below the minimum effective level (MEL) which is defined as 150 per cent of PDL.

The analysis is part of the follow-up to the 1976 inquiry into British firms in South Africa carried out by the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee.

A study of the data available shows that about sixty companies were providing pension and retirement funds; 32 had subsidised canteens; and 24 provided education schemes.

The court considered that small differences in the evidence presented by the European witnesses made it more trustworthy.

The Menten trial started in April and involved a total of 25 hearings. Light was thrown on his involvement in the Nazi massacre after a Dutch newspaper had published an interview with him on his art collection. This drew the attention of Mr Chaviv Kanaan, an Israeli journalist, to Mr Menten.

Mr Menten returned to The Netherlands from Poland in 1943. After the war he was sentenced to eight months in prison for having worn a German uniform and having worked as an interpreter for the SS in 1941. Allegations were made in the early 1950s that he had played a role in the massacres of Jews. Both Poland and Israel failed in demands for his extradition.

New York case, page 6

Mr Kanaan's accusations led to a sensational trial in particular by the news magazine *Accent*. The television programme on current affairs *Actua* produced witnesses who later appeared before the Amsterdam court.

There were public demands in the Netherlands for his arrest. When this was finally decided, Mr Menten escaped to Switzerland on the eve of being detained, which caused an outcry. It appeared that Mr van Agt, the present Prime Minister-designate, who was then Minister of Justice, had failed to read an urgent message on Mr Menten.

The Swiss extradited Mr Menten to the Netherlands on the understanding that he would not be extradited to a third country.

It is considered likely that Mr Menten will appeal to the High Court.

New York case, page 6

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IRA 'using Soviet grenades'

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Army experts in Northern Ireland are understood to have established that hand grenades used in three Provisional IRA attacks against British troops within the past week were all of Russian origin.

It is feared that the acquisition of Soviet weapons means that the Provisional IRA has found a new source of arms supplies. The weapons were the first commercially manufactured grenades used by the Provisionals since their campaign in Ulster began.

The first of the grenade attacks took place late on Saturday night when two of the Russian devices were hurled at an armoured personnel carrier in the strongly republican Grosvenor Road district of west Belfast. Both exploded more than 10 yards from their target, causing no damage and no casualties.

In the past, Provisional IRA gunmen have occasionally made use of the Russian-made AK47, a powerful 7.62 rifle, which has proved highly effective. As yet no firm theory about the route by which the grenades arrived in the province has been reached, but a Middle East connexion is suspected.

The discovery of the Russian grenades follows closely on a little publicised operation by Belgian police which resulted in about four tons of weapons destined for the Provisional IRA being intercepted in Antwerp.

Rocket launchers and firearms were among the weapons. The consignment was en route to the Irish Republic from Cyprus.

Soldier killed

An undercover soldier was murdered last night while on surveillance duties in the strongly republican Andersonstown area of Belfast.

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The film, *Working for Britain*, was the third in a documentary series, *The South African Experience*. It was due to be broadcast at 9 o'clock last night but was replaced at four hours' notice with a previously broadcast *Whicker's World* programme.

The six-day injunction against showing the interviews, only a few minutes of the hour-long documentary, was obtained by

Tate and Lyle after a 3½-hour private hearing.

It was believed the television company was considering lodging an immediate appeal. However, ATV is now hoping to show it in place of the fourth programme in the series next Wednesday if the appeal succeeds.

Mr John Lyle, chairman of Tate and Lyle, said after the hearing that he was relieved and delighted. He challenged the accuracy of the information provided in interviews with black workers on pay and conditions.

The dispute arose after a visit by Mr Antony Thomas, the film's freelance producer, to a sugar estate at Doornkop, near Durban, in July. Tate and Lyle sold its interest in the estate in September.

Yesterday Tate and Lyle spent £20,000 on national newspaper advertisements describing the picture presented by the film as unrepresentative of its operations in South Africa.

Malcolm Brown writes: Tate and Lyle was one of 214 companies with interests in South Africa that earlier this year gave to the Department of Trade information on employment practices. The department has now published an assessment based on 189 of those reports which indicates progress in improving African wages and some improvement in fringe benefits. But the department which had been under pressure for several months to do an assessment, admits that proper analysis has been almost impossible because of its understaffed force.

A study of the data available shows that about sixty companies were providing pension and retirement funds; 32 had subsidised canteens; and 24 provided education schemes.

The analysis is part of the follow-up to the 1976 inquiry into British firms in South Africa carried out by the trade and industry sub-committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee.

A study of the data available shows that about sixty companies were providing pension and retirement funds; 32 had subsidised canteens; and 24 provided education schemes.

TUC 'inner cabinet' to consider impact of Lords' judgment on trade union recognition strategy

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

TUC leaders are to consider the impact that the Lords' judgment on *Grunwick* will have on trade union efforts to win recognition through use of the Employment Protection Act, 1975. Mr James Mortimer, Chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas), said last night that the decision would make it more difficult to implement labour law.

The issue will be considered at next Monday's meeting of the TUC's 'inner cabinet', its finance and general purposes committee, when proposals for amending the legislation may be made.

Mr Mortimer said the decision was an authoritative statement of the law and would have to be accepted. The ruling would have three main consequences for industrial relations:

"First, it will make it more difficult for Acas to carry out its inquiries on trade union recognition among the small minority of firms who are not prepared to cooperate. This minority may be encouraged by the Lords' decision. Those who seek to obstruct the procedure established by Parliament may now feel themselves at an advantage.

"Undoubtedly, a boost has been given to those who have sympathy with one of the stated objectives of the Employment Protection Act, namely to encourage collective bargaining.

"Secondly, the lesson will certainly be drawn that when a union is faced by an employer who is not only opposed to recognition but sacks all his workers in dispute and refuses to cooperate in an Acas inquiry under the law, in particular section 11 of the Employment Protection Act, does not provide a satisfactory means of resolving the issue.

"Thirdly, it has been made clear that the workers on strike at *Grunwick* are properly among the workers to whom the recognition issue relates. This confirms the point of view taken by Acas and contested by the company. This may have a bearing on future cases."

Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary of the AUEW Technical and Supervisory Section, said:

Change in law urged over *Grunwick*

Continued from page 1

was confronted with difficulties in carrying out the opinions of workers still employed by the company.

Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of Apex, which has spent £250,000 on strike pay and legal costs during the dispute, said yesterday that the strike would go on. He had asked Acas to start again on the recognition issue, to go back to the company and seek the opinions of all the workers and strikers, and submit another report.

Mr Ward was jubilant. He said: "What matters is to observe the letter of the law, to respect the wishes of your employees and to be morally in the right. I believe the judgment vindicates us on these points."

"I am hopeful, particularly, because the rights of individuals have been reaffirmed by the highest court in the land."

Mr Grantham said the Lords' ruling meant that, under the present Employment Protection Act, an employer need not cooperate with Acas in supplying information vital to it in making recommendations.

He said: "Clearly this is a Catch-22 situation. The ball is now firmly at the feet of Parliament to put it right. If someone can obstruct a body established by Parliament, the law will have to be amended."

Mr Jack Dromey, secretary of the TUC's General Council and one of the leading figures behind the strike's campaign said: "I say once again, this dispute can only be won by trade union muscle." He criticized the TUC General Council and service unions for refusing to cut off essential supplies to the company. *Grunwick* had won a technical victory on the way the ballot of workers had been carried out.

The National Association for Freedom, which has supported Mr Ward throughout the dispute, said the decision was a triumph for the rule of law over the "brute force of trade union bullock". It said: "The courts have shown that Acas is not an impartial advisory service but a state recruiting sergeant for union leaders. Acas should be scrapped and the next Conservative government must pledge itself to repeal the Employment Protection Act."

The dispute has involved mass picketing on a scale not seen in Britain before. Violent clashes between police and pickets led to hundreds of arrests and many injuries. So serious was the violence that Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, set up a court of inquiry under Lord Scarman, which recommended the reinstatement of the workers on strike.

The Acas recommendation went first to the High Court, which found in favour of Acas. The company appealed and the Court of Appeal ruled that the recommendation was void. Acas then appealed to the Lords.

Earlier this week a Central Arbitration Council tribunal ruled that pay and conditions at *Grunwick* were no lower than those at similar companies and that a claim by Apex for equal treatment was not well founded.

Law Report, page 20

Mr George Ward's crusade for 'liberty'

By Robert Parker

For Mr George Ward, managing director of *Grunwick*, yesterday's ruling in the House of Lords is the culmination of a series of successes that would never have been attained but for his determination to resist what he saw as the bullying tactics of the trade unions.

In the beginning 16 months ago, it was a battle that nobody thought he could win. Mr Ward's stand has evoked strong admiration, almost hero worship, from a class of managers and Conservatives who would like to deal with the unions in the way that he has. The *Selkirk* group said at the height of the dispute that he was doing the Conservatives' job for them.

But his attitude has evoked fury among trade unionists, who see him as a blindly stubborn employer who has refused to meet justified demands.

Mr Ward will regard yesterday's result as a defeat for what he sees as the inexorable march of collectivism and the corporate state, and he undoubtedly feels that his stand may have turned the tide. His great obsession has become the preservation of what he sees as individual liberty. The left, of course, argues that his philosophy means liberty only for some.

Mr Ward's outlook is perhaps explained by his background and difficult early days. Of Anglo-Indian stock, he has become "more English than the English".


His knowledge of English history is extensive, he spouts Shakespeare during interviews, talks incessantly about the great British traditions and times about the way the country is allowing them to slip away.

He arrived in England after his father's bankruptcy and death full of hope and ambition. But he encountered racial prejudice and had difficulty in establishing himself.

His mother and sister worked hard to finance his training as an accountant. *Grunwick* was started a little more than 10 years ago as the result of a liaison with Mr John Hickey, now the co-director. The pattern was the familiar one: a few people worked long hours to get the company going.

Mr Ward saw the attempt to unionize *Grunwick* as a threat to the way the company was run. He insists that he is not anti-union, but feels that at the moment trade unionism benefits nobody.

Mr Ward's pugnacious character has been responsible more than anything else for the bitterness and length of the dispute.



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On the first day of Christmas

Government is asked for £17,300 to save flagons

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

The Government is being asked to help to save from export two of Britain's rarest and most beautiful pieces of silver, the *Mostyn* flagons.

A question set down for answer in the Commons tomorrow asks the Government to make a special grant to cover half the cost of one of the two flagons, which date from 1601 and which were sold by Lord Mostyn in a London auction in June for nearly £70,000.

The reply, due to be made by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will determine whether the flagons, for which an export licence has been withheld until January 5, leave the country together or remain, but in separate museums.

After the June sale and the withholding of the licence for six months, the city museums at Manchester and Cardiff said they would each buy one flagon. But Cardiff dropped out, and the city museums would not take only one; both would go or both would stay.

Last week Leeds art galleries stepped in with an offer, and Mr Robert Rowe, their director, explained yesterday: "The case I put to the Government was that if it would give a grant that, in effect, was a quarter of the price of the pair, it would save both for the nation. I have told the Government that I can produce £300,000 for the pair of flagons, if it will provide the rest."

"They are among the most spectacular objects I have ever seen, of absolutely superb design. Between them they tell us that we should not leave this country. We are mounting an almost impossible operation in an incredibly short time."

If the flagons stay in Britain, the Leeds purchase will be exhibited under Lord Scarman's court of inquiry at Temple Newsam House.

Mr George Levy, of the British Antique Dealers' Association, said: "These treasures are of at least similar significance to our heritage as paintings are; but they are of less monetary value than a Stubbs at £750,000 or a Bedini £250,000, so they do not attract as much attention."

The fact is that the decorative arts are slowly sliding out of the country.

Mr George Levy's Commons question Mr Andrew Farnham, MP for Wrexham, East, says the flagons are "among the most outstanding pieces of English silver of the Elizabethan period still in existence". He asks for Government action to prevent the loss of the flagons.

Each flagon bears the maker's mark "IA", but his identity is unknown. What is recorded is that Sir Roger Mostyn died in 1642, leaving his son Thomas "two gullt flagons with the coat of Armes thereon." A Communion flagon by the same maker, dated 1616, is in St Giles Church, York.

Letter, page 19

Ulster plan dropped

Mr Lynch, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, has dropped a plan to appoint a parliamentary emissary to keep him informed on Northern Ireland developments, which would have been a breach of the 1948 Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr Lynch's plan was to appoint a parliamentary emissary to keep him informed on Northern Ireland developments, which would have been a breach of the 1948 Anglo-Irish agreement.

Present Land Fund 'fails to hold public confidence'

By Philip Howard

Mrs Jennifer Jenkins, chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for England, told a parliamentary select committee yesterday that the National Land Fund did not command public confidence in its present form. The negotiations leading to the sale of Menmore Towers had not been satisfactorily handled.

Mrs Jenkins and her council were giving evidence to the last public hearing of the environmental subcommittee of the Select Committee on Public Expenditure. The subcommittee is expected to publish its report in the spring.

Mrs Jenkins said: "The resources available to the National Land Fund are not adequate to meet the demands of the next few years. Public expenditure controls impose a rigidity that cannot meet the erratic and uncertain demands on the fund."

"The system does not enable the experts to meet to form a general view of the pros and cons of a particular call on the fund, make an agreed recommendation."

Eventually the council would like an independent body on similar lines to the Arts Council to administer the fund. Meanwhile, Mrs Jenkins recommended that a committee of relevant experts should be formed immediately to advise the Government on the acquisition of outstanding historic buildings, land and collections.

Lord Crawford and Balcarres, chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland, agreed that the fund needed more money and needed to be free from transient public expenditure restrictions. A simple way of doing so would be to restore the £50m cut in the fund's capital in 1957, to generate sufficient annual interest.

However, the Scottish council does not agree that there should be a separate body of trustees to manage the fund. It considers that that would merely increase costs. Instead the Treasury should be told to run the fund as if they were trustees of a war memorial, which is what Mr Hugh Dalton established it to be.

Status of Judges' Rules

By Our Legal Correspondent

The finding by Sir Henry Fisher that the police had breached the Judges' Rules in their interrogation of youths involved in the case of Maxwell Confait, the homosexual prostitute murdered at Cardiff, London, in 1972, has once again drawn attention to the strange status of those rules and the sometimes ambiguous part they play in the criminal justice process.

They are not statutory, and have no formal legal status. They are drawn up by judges of the Queen's Bench Division under the Lord Chief Justice.

Originally drawn up in 1906 at the request of the police, the rules have been revised many times; the latest revision was in 1964. The six lengthy rules lay down the conduct expected of the police and the rights to which a person under interrogation is entitled.

A breach by the police of the rules may result in any evidence obtained from the interrogation being declared inadmissible. The decision on that is at the discretion of the trial judge.

Recent experience suggests that, on the whole, judges tend to be lenient in the application of the rules to be admitted unless the breach has been extremely serious.

That has led to criticism of the rules on the ground that they are "a bit of a little practical effect, and there have been made statutory."

Coalfield militants vote for a strike ballot

By Our Labour Editor

The first signs of impending strike action in the coalfields emerged yesterday as three militant areas of the National Union of Mineworkers carried out their threat to take legal action to halt the introduction of pit incentive schemes.

Only three hands were raised against a proposal to organize a strike ballot in five coalfields when the leaders of 25,000 South Wales miners met in Bridgend to plan a campaign against the union executive's decision to permit local productivity deals with the National Coal Board.

The South Wales miners are seeking support in Yorkshire, Scotland, Kent and north Derbyshire for a ballot to begin strike action in the next year in pursuit of the union's official claim for pay rises of 90 per cent. The men would be asked to give an unmistakable "Yes" for industrial action.

The initiative is likely to be taken up in the other areas. In Yorkshire three resolutions calling for action of some sort have been tabled for next Monday's crucial meeting of the coalfield area council of the NUM. The Scottish area leadership has voted for action to prevent incentive deals.

Men at one Scottish pit, Selkirk, yesterday continued their strike in protest at not being allowed to negotiate their own productivity deal. Mr Michael McGahay, area president of the union, is to meet the 1,100 strikers on Sunday to explain why they cannot.

Mr John Hynes, a local branch chairman of the union, said: "We have taken this action because we feel we are the highest producing mine in Scotland and we want to be paid for it."

Leaders of the Yorkshire, South Wales and Kent areas will seek an injunction in the High Court today to restrain the union executive from implementing its productivity plans on the ground that it is in breach of conference policy.

Mr Arthur Scargill, left-wing president of the Yorkshire miners, said last night: "We consider that the action of the national executive was totally unconstitutional. It strikes at the basis of democracy in our union."

"If we do not challenge it, the need for a national conference will disappear because the membership's views will no longer have any relevance."

The three militant areas taking the moderate-dominated union executive to court will argue that the union is bound by a conference decision, which rejected a proposal for the South Derbyshire coalfield that would have permitted area autonomy on pit incentive schemes.

The union executive voted 15 to 9 last week to ignore the outcome of a secret pithead ballot that came down marginally against the introduction of local incentives. Mr Emyls Williams, South Wales miners' president, said yesterday's decision to seek support for a strike was taken "in order to preserve the sanctity of ballot box". He added: "I am sure that virtually the whole of the South Wales coalfield is behind us in this."

The conference also passed a motion of no confidence in the union's national president, Mr Joseph Gormley.

Censure of three priests by Vatican

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Three priests operating in Britain under the authority of Cardinal Slipy, leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, have been censured by the Vatican for operating a parish in Halifax, West Yorkshire. This is the latest development in an increasingly fierce dispute between Cardinal Slipy, who is the head of many Ukrainian communities in the West, and the Pope over whether the cardinal should be regarded as patriarch of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

The church, although not strictly speaking a "Roman Catholic" is in full communion with Rome, and the Apostolic Exarch in Great Britain, the Right Rev Augustine Horvath, is a member of the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The disputed title of patriarch carries with it responsibility for the Ukrainian Catholic Church both in the Soviet Union and in the West, and the controversy is coloured by the fact that many members of the Ukrainian community in the West are militantly anti-Soviet.

The new parish in Halifax has been operating since October. Two of the three priests involved, Father Ivan Myrnyak and Father Mykola Matytszak, were informed by letter from the Holy See that month that they should not operate in the parish without the express permission of Bishop Horvath, and said that if they did so they would be suspended from all priestly duties.

A statement issued today on behalf of the Apostolic Exarchate to Great Britain, the Most Rev Bruno Heim, says that as they did not acknowledge those letters "they are now ipso facto suspended". The third priest, Father Petro Stechak, had previously received notice that he was suspended, for hearing confessions without Bishop Horvath's authorization.

The statement added that Archbishop Heim had been instructed by the Vatican to give a wide circulation to the reasons for those actions "in order to clarify this question and so inform public opinion, both Catholic and Anglican."

It declared that Ukrainian Catholics should be bound by their consciences to return to obedience to Bishop Horvath, and gives a warning that there are available "canonical sanctions and censures contemplated by the laws of the church."

Printers ensure strike-hit papers' reappearance

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Printing workers will today resist a series of draconian measures by the Press Association which they halted four months ago in support of a journalists' strike for a post-entry closed shop.

A £100,000 promotion campaign, and February will accompany the re-launching of the morning *Northern Echo*, the *Evening Despatch*, the weekly *Darlington and Stockton Times* and the *Durham Advertiser* weekly series.

But in an act of defiance the journalists yesterday rejected a "derisory" peace offer put forward by Westminster Press, one of the country's main provincial newspaper publishers.

The National Union of Journalists' longest will therefore continue. The strikers lost the printing workers' support last week, and printing union leaders ordered a return to work from this morning. The *Evening Despatch*, which sells only 15,500 copies, is losing its Saturday edition. It will be published tonight and the *Northern Echo* tomorrow morning.

Mrs Josephine Kirk Smith, the sub-editor whose refusal to join the union provoked the stoppage, is working normally on the *Darlington and Stockton Times*.

Health tax likely for high-tar cigarettes

By Annabel Ferriman

A health tax on high-tar cigarettes is likely to be proposed in a White Paper on preventive medicine, being published this afternoon.

Increased support for the Health Education Council and a system of regular tax increases on alcohol and cigarettes to ensure that they remain relatively expensive are also likely.

The paper is a reply to the Commons Expenditure Committee's report on preventive medicine, published last February. The committee's social services and medicine sub-committee, chaired by Mrs Renée Short, Labour MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, recommended a shift of priorities as "a matter of life and death."

On cigarette smoking, it proposed a ban on advertising except at the point of sale, stricter control of sponsorship, yearly increases in duty to produce yearly reductions in consumption, abolition of coupons, and more health warnings on packets.

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, is unlikely to announce more controls on sponsorship because Mr Howell, Minister of State for Sport, is preparing a statement to be issued soon.

Advertising controls are not likely to be changed substantially because a new advertising code came into effect in October or an experimental three-year period; nor is the health warning likely to be changed, because it was strengthened as part of the new code.

But a health tax on cigarettes with high tar yields is close to Mr Ennals's heart and was discussed among EEC health ministers on Tuesday in Brussels. The European Commission is to study acceptable common criteria for classifying cigarettes.

The White Paper is also likely to propose regular annual tax increases because of their considerable success in reducing consumption in the past.

Other recommendations in the expenditure committee's report included more health education in schools, increasing financial support for the Health Education Council and more emphasis on health education for training and medical students.

Cigarettes up: The price of some brands of filter cigarettes will go up by as much as 6p for 20 on January when the final stage of the EEC system of end-product duty comes into effect (a Staff Reporter writes).

Initiative on church authority is welcomed

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

In a statement welcoming the recent agreement on the principles behind authority in the Church, jointly produced by Anglican and Roman Catholic specialists, the Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales express their belief that the approach adopted will ultimately lead to visible unity.

The report of the bishops' own theological commission on the agreement is published today with the bishops' endorsement. It puts forward some reservations about certain aspects, but notes that those difficulties were more weight than the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission when it drafted the agreed statement.

The so-called Petrine texts—Gospel passages usually quoted in support of the primacy of Rome—can be seen more weight than the international commission suggests, the English theologians commented. The agreed statement remarked that those texts were sometimes doubted as authentic records of Christ's actual words. But today's statement adds that Roman Catholic convictions about the See of Rome rest not on any particular text but on the convergence of Scripture and practice.

Other comments by English theologians, particularly on the outstanding areas of difficulty identified by the international commission, are in the direction of meeting some of the Anglican misgivings. They ask for the doctrines of the immaculate conception and the assumption to be seen with reference to the "great convictions of Christian faith," and stress that the concept of the universal jurisdiction of the Pope, another Anglican sticking-point, undergoes constant re-examination as the church develops.

The original statement observed that in theory and in practice the ideas for the handling of authority in the Church had not been met. The English commission accepts that, but adds: "We cannot require perfection in the minds before responding in faith to the realities of episcopate and primacy which God wills for his church."

It concludes: "Now that we have before us all the agreed statements, we will need to consider the terms and concepts which have arisen from and formed our thinking in the past: they are not easily separated from convictions we hold as central. Now we must ensure that the new approach reflected in these statements, secures what is indeed central and does not avoid other issues which must be faced."

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars



England: Morning fog patches, dry, sunny spells; wind S light; max temp 7° to 9°C (45° to 48°F).
SW England, Wales: Morning fog, but clearing; wind S to SW, light or moderate; max temp 8° to 10°C (46° to 50°F).

Today
Sun rises: 8.0 am, 3.52 pm
Moon rises: 11.9 am, 10.11 pm
First quarter: December 17.

Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.31 am.
High water: London, Bridge, 7.44 am, 7.31 pm (22.8 ft); 5.15 pm, 7.44 am (24.2 ft).
Ayr, 10.25 am, 12.30 pm (42.3 ft); 10.49 pm, 12.44 am (40.5 ft).
Dover, 1.49 am, 12.44 pm (21.3 ft).
Hull, 9.24 am, 5.50 pm (23.7 ft); 9.29 pm, 7.31 am (23.9 ft).
Liverpool, 2.11 am, 9.11 am (29.8 ft); 2.32 pm, 9.30 am (30.6 ft).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee: Rather cloudy, mainly dry; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy, occasional rain; wind SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 9° or 10° (48° to 50°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Drier over England and Wales, overnight fog patches and some frost; Scotland and N Ireland will have occasional rain, becoming colder in S.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Place	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	10.0	SW	100
Edinburgh	8.0	SW	100
Glasgow	9.0	SW	100
Belfast	10.0	SW	100
Cardiff	11.0	SW	100
Birmingham	10.0	SW	100
Manchester	10.0	SW	100
Sheffield	10.0	SW	100
Leeds	10.0	SW	100
Nottingham	10.0	SW	100
Coventry	10.0	SW	100
Warwick	10.0	SW	100
Gloucester	10.0	SW	100
Bristol	10.0	SW	100
Exeter	10.0	SW	100
Plymouth	10.0	SW	100
Southampton	10.0	SW	100
Portsmouth	10.0	SW	100
Woolwich	10.0	SW	100
London (City)	10.0	SW	100
London (Heathrow)	10.0	SW	100
London (Gatwick)	10.0	SW	100
London (Stansted)	10.0	SW	100
London (Luton)	10.0	SW	100
London (Heathrow)	10.0	SW	100
London (Gatwick)	10.0	SW	100
London (Stansted)	10.0	SW	100
London (Luton)	10.0	SW	100

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind S, light; sea smooth.

English Channel (E): Wind variable, light; sea smooth.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW backing S; sea smooth or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 10°C (50°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 8°C (46°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sea: max sea level, 6 pm, 1.032.1 m; min sea level, 6 pm, 1.032.1 m; range, 0.000 m. 1,000 millibars = 29.93 in.

Overseas selling prices
Aberdeen, 10.0; Belfast, 10.0; Birmingham, 10.0; Bristol, 10.0; Cardiff, 10.0; Coventry, 10.0; Exeter, 10.0; Glasgow, 10.0; Gloucester, 10.0; Hull, 10.0; Ipswich, 10.0; Leeds, 10.0; Leicester, 10.0; Liverpool, 10.0; London, 10.0; Luton, 10.0; Manchester, 10.0; Newcastle, 10.0; Nottingham, 10.0; Oxford, 10.0; Peterborough, 10.0; Plymouth, 10.0; Portsmouth, 10.0; Reading, 10.0; Southampton, 10.0; Stevenage, 10.0; Swansea, 10.0; Telford, 10.0; Torquay, 10.0; Walsley, 10.0; Warrington, 10.0; Warwick, 10.0; Westbury, 10.0; Wigan, 10.0; Wolverhampton, 10.0; Worcester, 10.0; York, 10.0.

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HOME NEWS

Family planners say vital services are declining under NHS

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

The Family Planning Association is seriously concerned about deterioration of the services offered since they were handed over to the National Health Service in 1974.

Mr Alastair G. C. Smith, chairman of the association, said yesterday that it was ironic that while the Government had said "go to a free service some people at local level in the NHS were calling 'stop'."

Faced with financial difficulties, many area health authorities had looked at family planning as a new source of income. It was time to halt the erosion of services throughout the country. The association and the Government knew that family planning was cost-effective. In planned cuts by area authorities must not be allowed to jeopardize standards.

So far local and national protests had kept cuts to a minimum. But in the past month the association had received reports of proposals for next year to cut out clinics in Oxfordshire, Brighton, Essex, Bedfordshire, West Hertfordshire and other areas.

Peterborough and Lancaster authorities were proposing to ban sterilizations of men and women at a time when the use of the pill for older women was being questioned, with the result that waiting lists for vasectomy and female sterilization had greatly increased.

Family planning was far too important in the everyday lives of most people for decisions on the level of provision to be taken in isolation. The number and times of sessions to be left to the "service-chopping wizzards"

Scrutiny of hypermart plans urged

By Our Planning Reporter

A cautious attitude to out-of-town hypermarkets is disclosed in the Government's latest guidance note to local authorities. It suggests that senior planners have modified their view that, in most cases, the hypermarket may be located where it may do to established shopping centres outweighs their convenience and popularity.

The note emphasizes the need for careful study of economic, environmental and social factors. But it also states that "it is not the function of land use planning to prevent or to stimulate competition among retailers or among methods of retailing, nor to preserve existing patterns of retailing as such."

Planning "must take into account the benefits to the public which flow from new developments in the distributive and retailing fields."

An accompanying circular contains a statement by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, which concludes that hypermarkets have a greater effect on large town and city centres than on local and specialist shops.

The guidance note observes that in 1985 about one family in three will still be without a car, and that large new stores should preferably be located where they can serve customers travelling on foot and by public transport.

Although the Government must still be concerned of planning applications for shopping developments of 100,000 sq ft or more outside existing centres, it will use its own powers of decision only when issues of more than local importance are involved.

The implication is that the Government will not intervene in proposed developments such as in the Kite area of Cambridge, where residents have opposed a proposed "regional" shopping centre.

Bus fares rise

Bus fares in Oxfordshire will rise by between 1p and 5p, 18 per cent, on January 1.

Appeal from Strasbourg to Britain to put interest of the Community first

From David Wood
Strasbourg

An appeal to the United Kingdom Government to "choose Community interest instead of legitimate but domestic interest" and make quick progress on a date for European direct elections came from M Henri Simonet, president of the Council of Ministers, when he reviewed the six-month Belgian presidency at the European parliament yesterday.

He said that in Tuesday's vote the Commons had selected "the most difficult system" if elections were to be organized for May or June 1978. But he hoped direct elections during next year would still be possible. That would mean the British Government choosing the interest of the Community rather than domestic solutions.

It was extremely important for the EEC that, after the Westminster decision, a date should be appointed for European elections that would not be too remote from the original timetable.

Mr Roy Jenkins, president of the Commission, commented in Strasbourg that as a former Home Secretary he was wholly unconvinced that the adoption of the first-past-the-post system need involve a long delay.

Although he did not follow the example of Mr Simonet by mentioning the Westminster vote during a statement to the European Parliament on the

of some area health authorities. The association had proposed to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service that a statutory family planning standards authority should be set up, with powers to direct that central policies should be carried out.

At present the Department of Health issued guidelines but area authorities did not have to follow them. The new authority, which would monitor standards, would be made up of family planning professionals and experts. They would have to investigate powers and would be able to insist on improvements where necessary.

They would be advised by a consumer panel of members of the public, newspaper columnists and others, and would be in close liaison with community health councils.

The aim would be to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and achieve and maintain national standards of family planning. Area authorities should advertise the service.

More training should be given to all concerned, including general practitioners. Chemists should be encouraged to play a greater role. Any restrictions on the advertising of contraceptives should be removed, and there should be more advertising of services on television and in newspapers.

More provision should be made for specialist services, such as advising young people and dealing with psychosocial difficulties, subfertility, the menopause and counselling. National standards of education in sex and personal relationships should be recognised and introduced compulsorily in schools.

Threat to loans for film-making

By Kenneth Gosling

The National Film Finance Corporation will face claims by the Government in 1978-79 for interest payments totalling £750,000, including £250,000 deferred from last year.

Sir John Terry, managing director of the corporation said yesterday that if the Government insisted on payment of all the interest it would absorb all the corporation's funds. He said that the Government would not think the Corporation would be as sympathetic as that.

The annual report draws attention to information from the Department of Trade that sympathetic consideration was being given to the possibility of allowing the corporation to draw £750,000—the balance of £2.73m released for its use last year—over the next three years. But the Government directed otherwise, interest payments would absorb most of that.

"In which case the corporation will be unable to engage in any significant lending on its own."

Sir John said the corporation's record was unrivalled in the history of the British film industry. In 28 years it had helped to finance 750 feature films, and one in three had shown a profit; no other film organization could show anything like that record.

The future was reasonably helpful. The Queen's Speech had announced a new Bill this session to increase the funds at the corporation's disposal.

"If extra funds are made available, we shall be able to make a significant contribution if two things happen in that Bill: the foregoing of interest on 'dead' money so we do not have this incubus of £500,000 a year around our income; and the channelling into the production fund of one fifth of the British Film Fund as put forward a couple of years ago."

Transfer of housing in new towns to councils approved

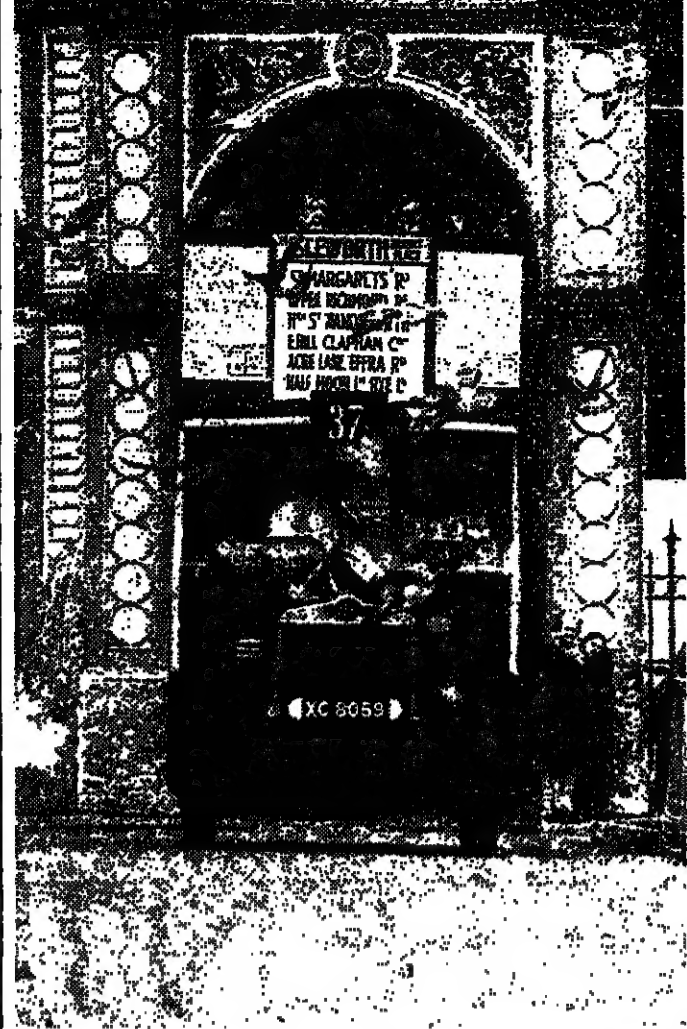
By Christopher Warran
Local Government Correspondent

Proposals for development corporations to hand over to district councils more than 30,000 rented houses in three new towns on April 1, 1978, were approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Other properties, including garages, shops, public houses and open spaces, will also be transferred. The three towns are Haslow, Essex, and Aycliffe and Peterlee, in Durham.

From the date of transfer the work of the development corporations in managing the housing, including maintenance and repairs, rent collection and new tenancy allocations, will be taken over by the councils.

Those transfers are the latest in a series due to take effect in April under the New Towns (Amendment) Act, 1976. Mr Shore has already approved transfers in Corby, Bracknell,



New home: An open-top bus of the 1920s arriving yesterday at the flower market building in Covent Garden, which will house London Transport's collection of old vehicles, now at Syon Park, Isleworth.

by the Prime Minister's working party.

"This would bring in £800,000 annually, guarantee the Government against loss and encourage them to be more generous with a larger fund, and it would attract further film 'angels' (backers) from private sources."

Sir John said that during the past year they had financed five films—a significant contribution to the problems of the film industry—and during the present year they had been able to draw only £620,000, all of which was committed to projects.

There was still £500,000 available for lending and two big projects beginning in the spring would take much of that.

The report discloses a net loss of £2.1m this year. The total deficiency shown on operations since 1949 is £8.1m, of which £4.3m was interest paid to the Government and £1.6m in operating expenses.

Mixed-ability classes 'improve conduct but make heavy demands on teachers'

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

More evidence that mixed-ability classes are a mixed blessing in teaching mathematics is provided by a Schools Council report published today.

The report is based on a survey by a working group of teachers and others concerned with teaching mathematics. It relates to 26 schools, all but one secondary, where mixed-ability teaching was the policy for at least the first year and in some cases for up to the fifth year.

It is not intended to give an objective judgement on mixed-ability teaching in mathematics, but rather to provide examples of good practice, pinpoint the difficulties and offer advice to teachers who are already doing mixed-ability teaching or who are thinking of setting up such classes.

Nor is it intended to be evangelistic in character, Mr R. T. Richardson, chairman of the working group, says in a foreword to the report. "We are concerned with the mixed-ability classes as such. We have, however, attempted to produce a survey from which we hope teachers will be able to derive encouragement and ideas relevant to their own teaching and learning."

The advantages that teachers believed they had gained from adopting mixed-ability classes included social benefits for the children; curriculum development; because teachers were forced to rethink aims and objectives; greater awareness of individual differences between pupils and the need to provide for different abilities; and a good working atmosphere in the classroom with fewer behaviour difficulties between teacher and pupil.

Mixed-ability teaching was also found to raise the levels of achievement (Schools Council, Evans/Meduen Educational, £2.50).

Regular sabbaticals are suggested for all

By Alan Hamilton

Regular sabbatical leave for all workers, particularly those in boring jobs, is advocated in a Fabian Society research pamphlet published yesterday.

The author, Mrs Catherine Corder, who undertook the study for the John Collins Memorial Lecture of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, says the present rigid division of life into work and leisure is unhealthy for both individuals and society. There should be much more flexibility in working life to achieve a better balance of work and leisure throughout life.

All workers should be able to devote a concentrated period of time to an interest of their choosing, even if the interest is merely in taking holidays, before their full-time retirement, when age, lack of money and reduced enthusiasm make new experiences more difficult to contemplate. Workers would return to their jobs with renewed enthusiasm and possibly with new interests that they could pursue part-time.

"The lives of most ordinary people are restricted by a treadmill of daily routine to be followed in the evening of their years by a vacuum of time labelled 'retirement', the pamphlet says. Workers at present eligible for sabbatical leave are those already likely to derive high satisfaction from their jobs, like journalists, teachers and senior managers, and are therefore in less need of breaks in routine.

The author thinks children should have school as soon as they are bored with it, after a certain period of compulsory schooling, and should be able to return to their education later when they can derive benefit from it.

"Throughout life, large chunks of time are set aside and labelled as education, work, leisure and retirement. Most of these divisions of time are unnatural. They are imposed by the demands of the labour market and the present structure of industrial society."

If it were possible to form about these categories, life would be seen as one continuous process in which work, education and leisure were closely related.

Sabbatical leave should not be spent in the never-ending toil of housework or "do-it-yourself". It is essentially an educational experience, a breathing space for the development of individuality outside the inevitably repressive work world, she says.

A crucial age for taking a longer break from work is during middle age before the individual begins to think about planning his retirement. A break at that time may also be beneficial to both employer and man die soon after retirement, but pre-retirement courses can help.

Tapes may be used to test school science

By Our Education Correspondent

Tape-recorded interviews may be used in place of written examinations to help the Government to assess the standards of science in the nation's schools.

A consultative document issued yesterday from the science steering group at the Assessment of Performance Unit in the Department of Education and Science says special provision will be made for testing pupils who have difficulty in reading or writing. A tape recorder might be used or the test administrator might record oral responses.

Tape-recorded interviews might also be used for able children. Talking with a child to allow him to express confidence in his own work and questioning him about his responses may be the most effective way of revealing certain of his ideas, the document says.

Skill in handling instruments or apparatus might be assessed by observation of the pupil's performance in practical situations rather than by written test.

The Assessment of Performance Unit is to begin testing science standards in 1980, studying three groups, each of about 12,000 children: the 10 to 11-year-olds in the last year of primary school; 15 to 16-year-olds; and 12 to 13-year-olds.

The document says the assessment has been sent to organizations and individuals concerned with science education in schools. They have been asked to submit comments by the end of February.

The Assessment of Performance Unit, Department of Education and Science, 10, Whitehall, London SW1A 2BQ.

Airlines say profits from European fares fail to cover future capital needs

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

European airlines denied yesterday that their fares were too high in relation to costs and said that on routes shorter than 400 kilometres they were low.

The Association of European Airlines, chaired by Mr Adam Thomson, chairman of British Caledonian Airways, agreed that normal air fares in Europe were higher than those in other areas but said more special discount fares were offered.

Although most airlines made a profit on their European networks in general they were insufficient to cover future capital requirements.

The association's view came on the day when the annual report of the British Airline Users' Committee referred again to European air fares as "a complex jungle".

The independently chaired committee established by the Civil Aviation Authority to look after the interests of airline passengers said it had received complaints about the level of scheduled-service fares, mostly to Scandinavia.

Two airlines had also complained about the high level of fares they had to charge for passengers and cargo on cross-Channel services. Neither was a member of the International Air Transport Association, but they had to implement the Association's decision to raise their fares to meet the airlines' own needs.

The committee also expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of publicity given to the issue of fares. "It is a pity," it said, "that the compensation payable to passengers who are refused a seat after paying for their tickets."

"No information is given to passengers until they are actually off-loaded. We consider that customers are entitled to know conditions when tickets are purchased. In addition, compensation applies to only one half of the ticket, the outward half, and this is something that the public does not expect."

Sir Archibald Hope, chairman of the committee, criticized the airlines for refusing to give information on operating costs, so that their arguments for increasing fares could be validated; and on punctuality.

"We do not understand why the airlines cannot be forced to provide details and we shall follow this up as hard as we can," he said.

Despite the disruption of air travel in Britain through a series of strikes the committee received fewer passenger complaints during 1976-77 than in previous years; 276, as against 331 in 1975-76 and 442 in 1974-75.

"With no statistics from operators about the number of complaints received, we are unable to reach any conclusion on this point," the report said.

The largest number of complaints concerned flight cancellations and delays, which were always a major cause of passenger dissatisfaction. The committee expressed amazement at the number of complaints still being received about loss of valuables packed in baggage sent for carriage in aircraft hold.

AUC Annual Report (Civil Aviation Authority, 37, Grafton Road, Chesham, Gloucestershire GL50 2BN, 75p).

Deserter jailed after killing

Ralph Liddle, aged 23, an army deserter, of Stoke-on-Trent, was jailed at Winchester Crown Court yesterday for 12 months for the murder of Kenneth Green, aged 18, a policeman's son, of Broomers, Hampshire.

He was also sentenced to a further 30 months' imprisonment to run consecutively, after admitting a charge of defrauding the Department of Health and Social Security, and having cannabis.

Before Mr Liddle was sentenced he and his friend, a man named White, and a girl, Mrs Willis, who were co-defendants on the expedition to Broomers, faced 10 separate charges.

Mrs Willis was given a seven-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and put on probation for two years after pleading guilty to burglary. Mr White was sent to prison for three and a half years after pleading guilty to burglary, possession of dangerous weapons, and driving while disqualified.

Campaign to stop closing of a hospital succeeds

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that St Nicholas Hospital, Elmstead, London, would not be closed, as had been planned by the area authority to save £980,000 running costs. Overriding amounts to about £1.75m.

The minister's alternative plan, on which the authority had agreed, involved closing three smaller hospitals and possibly two more. If all five were closed it was estimated that there would be a similar saving of nearly a million pounds.

The three to be closed are Eltham and Morningside Hospital (51 beds), Bexley Maternity Hospital (30 beds) and the Bexley and Woolwich Hospital (25 beds). The Memorial Hospital, Woolwich (34 beds) and the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich (41 beds) are also likely to close.

At a press conference Mr Ennals said that the strong and well-conducted local campaign against the closure of St Nicholas Hospital had some influence on his decision. But there were always strong arguments about the closing of any hospital and he had to make his decision on a pattern of services that best met an area's needs.

He had visited the area and had no doubt that there had been some miscalculation. In both estimated needs and the national average the area had significantly more acute beds than were needed.

The area authority was spending well above its budget. That could not continue because other areas in Kent were suffering. The difficulties went back for years.

The public had not realised the implications of the opening of two district general hospitals, the Greenwich District General and Queen Mary's, Sidcup. There was a network of small, uneconomic hospitals that were no longer necessary.

Mr Ennals said St Nicholas Hospital was of great value to the community, and he had decided to close it. He had no doubt that there had been some miscalculation. In both estimated needs and the national average the area had significantly more acute beds than were needed.

The area authority was spending well above its budget. That could not continue because other areas in Kent were suffering. The difficulties went back for years.

MoT for caravans

Owners of all motor caravans that are three years or more old will need MoT test certificates for their vehicles from January 1.

Labour decision reselection

There should also be greater flexibility in the way the suggestion that men should spend long periods looking after children.

The costs of setting up schemes of sabbatical leave, which is seen as a way of helping to reduce both overmanning and unemployment, should be met from the resources normally allocated in industry to research and management development. Mrs Corder also suggests that contributions to occupational pension schemes could be so arranged that a worker could "buy" a sabbatical.

There are few guidelines on how often sabbatical leave should be granted, except a reminder that the term comes from the Old Testament, which uses it to designate the seventh year of cultivation, in which a field lies fallow.

Sabbaticals for all by Catherine Corder, for the Fabian Society, 60p.

Call for death grant to be raised to £50

Call for death grant to be raised to £50

Judge's wa

Judge's wa

HOME NEWS

Labour leaders delay decision on automatic reselection for MPs

By Michael Hargrave

Labour's heated argument over whether MPs should automatically face reselection before a general election, part of a campaign organized by the left, was put back into the melting pot yesterday at a meeting of the national executive committee, in which the Prime Minister intervened.

Some right-wing Labour MPs were breathing a sigh of relief last night because they saw themselves as the object of the strategy organized by the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, which culminated in a resolution to the annual party conference this year.

The resolution was remitted, but it was expected that the national executive, dominated by the left, would bring forward proposals for automatic reselection. It has now been decided to set up a working party, which will include MPs and constituency party representatives and not just national executive members.

While Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, strongly objected to the working party, first proposed by the party's organization committee on the casting vote of its chairman, Mr Byron Stanley, of the Post Office Engineering Union, Mr Callaghan said that automatic reselection was not necessarily the best way to run the party. When the executive voted 14 to 11 in favour of

the working party, the Prime Minister, jokingly, but with undisguised relief, said: "I could have left earlier".

Mr Mikardo said everyone knew that the Parliamentary Labour Party was against automatic reselection and suggested that a proposal should be put to the conference, which could defeat it if it wanted to.

Mr Callaghan would have none of it. That was a flat-footed way of handling it, he said, suggesting that Mr Mikardo was usually far more subtle. "Our object is to try to get agreement with all concerned before we put anything to conference".

The executive committee also held off union pressure for an inquiry into the party's organization and structure, although it agreed that the organization committee should see Mr Bennett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, who first suggested the idea, to hear his views.

Mr Callaghan also joined in the debate, agreeing with Mr Foot that it would be best to hear what Mr Bennett had to say before taking any further steps.

Mr Mikardo was also against the inquiry, particularly in what might be a general election year, although the Prime Minister raised doubts on that when he said that some people had suggested 1978, but he wanted to make it absolutely clear there was also 1979.

Planning order is withdrawn

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government announced yesterday that it is withdrawing the controversial Town and Country Planning General Development Order for further consideration. The order was intended to relax planning controls and was expected to reduce the number of applications by up to a fifth.

The surprise announcement came only a day after indications that the Government was ready to override opposition, including a motion carried in the Lords last week, calling for the order to be withdrawn. On Tuesday evening Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, told journalists that he was willing to consider objections in and outside Parliament, but was no hint of any immediate action.

Yesterday's statement also said that the Government's response to the report by the Commons expenditure committee on planning procedures would be published shortly.

Jail hostage move

A new office is being built outside Parkhurst prison, Isle of Wight, to reduce the risks to civilian employees of being taken hostage by prisoners.

Call for action to help young blacks

From John Chatteris

The difficulties of young black people living in Liverpool, one of the most deprived cities of Merseyside, need urgent action, Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference in Manchester, the commission's strategy for the Northwest, he said that while Liverpool would not be singled out for special action by his commission, a call would be made to local authorities and other employers in the city.

"We do not feel we are quite sitting on a powder keg there, but there are now opportunities to improve matters which must be taken up quickly".

Call for death grant to be raised to £60

By a Staff Reporter

An appeal to the Government to double the death grant from £30 to £60 in next year's Budget was made yesterday by organizations representing the elderly.

Representatives of the English, Scottish and Welsh groups of Age Concern, as well as consumer bodies including the Welsh Consumer Council, held an all-party lobby of MPs at Westminster. They say that the grant, last raised by £5 in 1967, represents a quarter of the cost of the cheapest available funeral, although the original intention of the National Insurance Act, 1946, was for a subsidy of a half.

The cost of doubling the grant is put at £15m, with an extra £3m for removing the anomaly that prevents men from qualifying for the full rate.

The Department of Health said yesterday that although the present grant represented 18 per cent of average funeral costs, it was still considered a significant contribution towards meeting them.

Judge's warning to razor attackers

Lord Wheatley, the Lord Justice-Clark, gave a warning in the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday that he proposes to wipe out the reputation of the open razor by severe and exemplary sentences.

He said remarks would be noted generally as the case Alan McIntyre, aged 18, of Kilmarnock, to a young

Mr Keating for trial on £6,000 bail

By Our Planning Reporter

Tom Keating, aged 60, the former MP, was committed to Wells Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, for trial at the Central Criminal Court on nine charges relating to the sale of works by him as being those of the artist, J.M.W. Turner.

He was granted bail in £5,000. Lionel Evans, aged 45, an antique dealer, of Fountain House, East Bergholt, Suffolk, was also sent for trial on bail of £2,000.

Both are jointly accused of conspiracy to defraud and three counts of obtaining money by deception. Mr Keating, of Lower Park, Dedham, alone faces five further charges of making false representations.

The conspiracy charge concerns the false representation of four paintings as the genuine works of Samuel Palmer. The joint deception charges relate to another Palmer, a drawing of 1825 presented as a genuine Constable, and an oil painting dated 1862 as the work of Cornelius Krieghoff.

The five false representation charges against Mr Keating relate to obtaining cheques for £3,350, £3,750, £3,750, £3,750 and £3,750, obtaining a letter authorizing the transfer of £3,600 to Miss Jane Kelly, and obtaining a further cheque for £4,000, all relating to paintings represented as the work of Samuel Palmer.

Mr Surenda Kufar, principal officer for the North and Scottish region of the commission, said there were nearly 20,000 black people in Liverpool, one of them in the fourth and fifth generations, who remained unemployed and badly housed.

He and other officials of the commission agreed that very great credit was due to them and their community leaders, for the fact that there had been no outbreaks of violence.

Answering questions about the attitudes of employers in Liverpool, where there are far fewer black bus drivers or shop assistants than in most large English cities, Mr Alan Wilson, a commissioner based in Manchester, said: "The local

MPs seek Act change over jailing of woman

By a Staff Reporter

Ninety-nine MPs have put their names to a Commons motion seeking a change in an obscure fourteenth century law that allowed a Birmingham woman to be sent to jail for a month earlier this year without being charged with any offence.

Mrs Valerie Waters, aged 45, of Endwood House, Little Aston, Birmingham, originally appeared before magistrates at Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, as a prosecution witness in a case against four fox-hunting supporters who were alleged to have ambushed her car, poured oil on it and sprayed it with paint. But the magistrates decided that Mrs Waters, an active opponent of hunting, had provoked the supporters, and found her over in the sum of £50 to keep the peace for year.

She was sent to prison by Leicester Crown Court in July after appealing against the sentence and refusing to pay the £50.

The principal sponsor of the motion is Mr Bruce Groat, Labour MP for Lichfield and

offenders' institution for seven years. Mr McIntyre had been convicted at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on November 14 of assaulting two men with a razor on April 30 and a third man on June 10 by repeatedly butting him in the face.

Edward McIntyre, aged 19, who was convicted with Mr McIntyre of assaulting one of



Queen Elizabeth I in her coronation robes.

Painting of Elizabeth I for National Portrait Gallery

By Huon Mallalieu

The only known painting of Queen Elizabeth I in her coronation robes was acquired by the National Portrait Gallery at Sotheby's yesterday for £25,000. Sotheby's gave £5,000 and Hugh Leggett, who bid for the painting on the gallery's behalf, gave £1,000 towards the total.

The painting has in the past been attributed to Holbein and to Quilley Scotts, but its true authorship is uncertain. The same image of the Queen, with her hair over her shoulders, and wearing a "mantle of clothe of golde, tissued with golde and silver, furred with powdered armyns [ermine]" formed the pattern for official depictions of her on coins, documents and her first seal.

There is also a miniature copy

of the portrait by Nicholas Hilliard in the collection of the Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey.

Until the eighteenth century it was customary for monarchs to be crowned with their hair loose, even if that meant using a special hairpiece. The Queen also wears the crown, a jewelled collar and girdle and a chain of rubies and pearls. The costume appears in the royal wardrobe inventory of 1600, where there is a note of "one kirtle the traine and skirtes furred with powdered armyns, the rest lined with sarconnet, with a pair of bodies and sleeves to the same".

The painting, which seems in good condition, was formerly in the collection of the Earls of Warwick at Warwick Castle.

Other sale news, page 21

Inquiry into availability of loans for fishing boats

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Reports that loans are not to be made available next year for new fishing boats are being investigated by Mr Bishop, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries.

Mr Douglas Henderson, Scottish National Party MP for Inverclyde East, said to a Commons standing committee White Fish Authority which said that it had been hoping to formulate a policy for new building but that had not been possible because EEC fisheries policy was not yet complete.

"We are continuing to approve applications for new fishing vessels but our policy is an interim one of containment of the fleet", the letter said. Mr Henderson said there

were rumours among fishermen that there might be no loans at all during the coming year, although grants would continue. At present, fishermen having new boats built for them get up to a quarter of the cost by grant, and up to half by loan.

After the committee had approved continuation for further year orders providing for grants for fishing vessels, Mr Henderson spoke privately to the minister.

Mr Henderson said afterwards that Mr Bishop had promised to look into the matter. He said that in spite of the difficulties of the industry it was important for new building to continue to replace old vessels.

Professor Max Beloff joins Conservatives

Professor Max Beloff, a former Liberal, has joined the Conservatives. Formerly Glasgow Professor of Government and Public Administration at Oxford University, he was a past president and member of Oxford City Liberal Association until he resigned from the party in 1972.

Liberal policies on education, defence, industrial democracy and finally the pact with Labour had convinced him that the Liberals had lost their way. Professor Beloff, now Principal of the Independent University College, at Buckingham, said: "Classical Liberalism was concerned with the development of the individual and the breaking down of social, political and religious barriers, but that grand in the British political tradition seems to have gone into the Conservative Party".

Cambridge virus identified

The virus that caused the death of three babies at Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge, was identified yesterday as an echo virus, type 11, one of 33 echo types in the entero family.

It is not a new virus, but its effect was fatal in a unit where weak, premature or ill babies had little resistance.

£15,000 theft at cathedral

The theft of 250 bronze bars worth £15,000 that were to be used in the framework of Liverpool Cathedral's great Benedictine window over the west door has delayed completion of the building, on which work started in 1964.

The cathedral is expected to be finished in late autumn next year.

Delay likely on Southend pier

Repairs to Southend pier, badly damaged in a £13m fire last year, are likely to be delayed for at least a year, a council official said yesterday.

Town councillors are pressing for rebuilding work to be halted in an effort to avert rate rises next year. The policy and resources committee wants repairs to be abandoned.

WEST EUROPE

Resignation of Defence Minister demanded as Herr Schmidt is attacked over Bonn spying scandal

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Dec 14

The Opposition today demanded the resignation of Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, and attacked Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, for what called the biggest spy case the country has known.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Christian Democratic leader, said the Chancellor had joined responsibility for the serious scandal in which photocopies of more than 1,000 top secret documents from the Defence Ministry were passed to East Germany.

Herr Schmidt told the Cabinet today that the case should under no circumstances be played down or made light of, although he emphasized that he did not share the Opposition's view of it, the Government spokesman said.

Herr Kohl's demand for Herr Leber's resignation came as the scandal began to react to the news that many vital

West German and Nato military secrets appear to have been betrayed.

According to a Defence Ministry analysis of information collected by the investigators, they included details of the structure and state of the West German armed forces, their future plans, their crisis and stand-by planning and their knowledge of the state of the Warsaw Pact forces.

The parliamentary defence committee today decided to investigate the affair after a brief and uninformative appearance by Herr Leber. The minister reportedly told them that Dr Kurt Rebmann, the federal prosecutor, was in charge of the case and they should look to him for information.

He said he could say no more than he told the press yesterday and, despite enreaties to say, left hurriedly for an engagement with the visiting Portuguese President.

Already irritated that the

minister had chosen to speak to the press first, the defence committee has turned itself into an investigating committee and is proposing to look into questions which an opposition spokesman said Herr Leber "clearly does not want to face".

It is expected also to go into allegations that investigations were obstructed by high-ranking ministry officials. The opposition members in particular want to know how the chief of the personnel department, whose secretary is alleged to have photocopied the documents, had access to top secrets which apparently did not concern his work.

Disciplinary proceedings against the chief of the personnel department, Dr Herbert Laake, were opened yesterday at Dr Laake's own request and he was suspended from his post.

A brief debate on the affair which was scheduled for question time in Parliament was cancelled after the committee decided to start investigations.

Husband's plea to kidnap gang

From Patricia Clough

Vienna, Dec 14—Herr Leopold Zechner, a 40-year-old businessman, today urged the kidnappers of his wife, Lotte, to make contact with him. He told them her health was deteriorating.

He broadcast his appeal more than 40 hours after two masked gunmen seized Frau Zechner, who is 42, outside her Vienna home on Monday night. Friends say she needs regular medical treatment following a major operation.

Police, facing their second kidnapping case in five weeks, are working on several theories, including a possible link with the West German Beader-Meinhof terrorist group, who were behind the Munich air station attack of Herr Walter Michael Palmer, an Austrian millionaire, who was released after his family paid a ransom of 31 million schillings (£1,760,000).

—Reuters.

Canaries separatists shoot policemen

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Dec 14

Canary Islands separatists shot two policemen in Tenerife today, in the aftermath of the fatal shooting of a student demonstrator by police on Monday.

The policemen are reported to be recovering, although a hospital spokesman in the island's capital, Santa Cruz, said that one of them may have to have an arm amputated.

It was the second day running that shotguns had been fired at policemen in the island from a car during darkness.

The extremist organization, Movement for the Self-Determination and Independence of the Canary Islands, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a telephone call to a local newspaper.

The two policemen were shot while they stood guard outside a Santa Cruz store to prevent looting following a fire which

had been started a few hours earlier by a gang of youths throwing petrol bombs.

Specially trained riot-control police were flown to Tenerife from Zaragoza and Madrid.

As protests grew about the use of bullets by police in dealing with disturbances such as took place at La Laguna university in Tenerife on Monday, Señor Rodolfo Martín Villa, the Interior Minister.

In Salamanca, one of the highest ranking members of the Civil Guard, Brigadier General Manuel Prieto López, said: "We are sorry about all the deaths, but we cannot just let ourselves be killed without using the means which have been placed in our hands".

The dead student, Javier Fernández, aged 23, was buried in Las Palmas, on the neighbouring island of Gran Canaria, yesterday afternoon.

Growing number of French floating voters

From Ian Murray

Paris, Dec 14

With just 87 days left until the general elections 20 per cent of the French voters still cannot make up their mind which party they will choose to represent them in the next National Assembly. This uncommitted group is noticeably larger than any of the committed supporters except the Socialists, according to the Sofres opinion poll published in Le Figaro today.

An analysis of the voting intentions of the 80 per cent who now say they have made up their minds is very similar to all recent polls. The left has 50 per cent support, the Majority coalition can expect 47 per cent support, and the ecologists get the remaining three per cent on the first round.

There are no surprises in this and the big question must still be whether most of the undecided 20 per cent—once more than in a similar poll last month—will opt for a change or the status quo when the election comes.

S Africa's submarine is launched

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Dec 14

The first of the two submarines ordered by South Africa from the shipyards of Dubigeon-Normandie in Nantes was launched into the Loire last night without any ceremony. Originally due in September, the launch was delayed by a series of strikes at the shipyard.

Although France has undertaken under the United Nations Security Council's arms embargo agreed last month not to deliver the submarines or the two escort vessels ordered by South Africa, work is going ahead to finish them. An assurance policy was taken out covering interruption of work for "political motives".

One of the two escort vessels, the Good Hope, is moored in the inner harbour in Lorient. Its sea trials were suspended when the arms embargo was agreed.

Bonn dismisses report of missile tests

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Dec 14

The West German Defence Ministry today dismissed as "pure nonsense" a report that it is secretly testing Cruise and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Zaire.

A West German space and communications company, however, said that it is testing satellite-launching rockets for peaceful commercial purposes over a tract of land it has leased in Zaire.

Both the firm and the ministry said there was no truth in the claim by *Penthouse* magazine that the company was testing missiles for the Government and was receiving support from the West German military budget.

Polisario to free Frenchmen 'soon'

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Dec 14

The eight French technicians held as hostages by the Polisario Front—six were taken in May, and two in October—are to be freed soon, the Front informed Mr François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, in a personal message last night.

A statement issued by Socialist Party headquarters today said that he had been told that the men were in good health, were well treated, and that the Polisario Front had decided to release them. Their families' lawyers had been informed.

This confirms recent rumours that the hostages would be freed about Christmas or the New Year. Asked why the Polisario Front has passed the information to the Socialist Party, a party spokesman said that the Western Sahara rebels wished to show their gratitude to the French Socialists for urging the French Government to recognize them.

year ago. Mr Mitterrand had criticized the Government's refusal to consider the aspirations of the Saharoui people out of deference to the wishes of Morocco. Early last month, a delegation of the French Socialist Party went to Algiers and met representatives of the Polisario Front to negotiate the release of the hostages.

Attempts made by the Government about the same time to negotiate through Mr Claude Chayer were unsuccessful. M Chayer, who went to Algiers several times to meet members of the Polisario Front, was told the Frenchmen were not hostages but prisoners of war, because France had failed to recognize the Front.

M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, also announced just before leaving Algiers today that the hostages would soon be freed.

He visited Algiers at the head of a large delegation and met President Boumedienne of Algeria privately for an hour yesterday.

The decision to release the hostages is felt in Paris to be the upshot of realization by the Polisario rebels that their continued detention would do more harm than good to their cause.

Growing number of French floating voters

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OVERSEAS

Smith insistence on special MPs for white voters dims hopes of early agreement in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Dec 14

Settlement talks between the Rhodesian Government and three internally based nationalist movements ran into difficulties today over the Government's insistence on whites retaining a "blocking third" of votes in a future multiracial National Assembly.

Today's discussions, the fifth meeting to be held since the four parties started their talks at the beginning of this month, lasted for three hours, but by all appearances the atmosphere was not as cordial as during previous meetings. Some of the delegates were stony-faced when they left the meeting and none of them made any formal comment to the press.

The talks are to continue tomorrow afternoon, indicating that all parties are anxious to avoid a breakdown at this stage. But hopes that a broad agreement might have been reached by the end of this week now seem unlikely to be fulfilled.

A four-line statement issued at the end of the meeting merely noted that discussions had continued on the questions of parliamentary representation and constitutional safeguards and that progress had been made. However, unlike previous statements, there

were no references to the talks having been friendly or frank.

Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, is understood to be demanding that a third of the seats in a future parliament should be held by whites on the basis of a white voters' roll. The remaining two thirds would be held by blacks elected by blacks only.

Two of the nationalist leaders—Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council (UANC) and Rev Ndabaningi Sithole of the African National Council (ANC)—are opposed to this proposal, particularly the separate roll for white and black voters' rolls. It is understood that they might accept the principle of a "blocking third" in Parliament but only on the basis of common roll elections.

There are two reasons for their objections to the Government's proposals. First, they would involve a continuation of Rhodesia's racial divisions, which the nationalists wish to see removed. Second, the election of a white roll would mean that most of the existing Rhodesian Front members would retain their seats.

However, Mr Smith maintains that any other constitutional safeguards are worthless

unless there is a built-in blocking mechanism to prevent retrogressive amendments to the constitution. He has urged that he could not gain acceptance of a settlement by the white electorate without agreement on this point.

Tory view: Mr John Davies, the Conservative spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, urged the British Government yesterday to persuade the Rhodesian Front—and particularly its joint leader, Mr Joshua Nkomo—to take part in the negotiations and eventual free elections.

Speaking in Chelsea, Mr Davies said: "Mr Nkomo must realize, being the astute politician that he is, that the chances of bringing about a violent solution leaving him in command, have receded considerably."

"If Mr Smith's discussions with the other nationalist leaders do lead to agreement on a constitution and thereafter to an election which clearly indicates the will of the Rhodesian people as a whole, he is going to have a virtually impossible task to upset it."

"On the other hand, if he takes part in the internal settlement, he has a powerful hand to play."

Western journalists are shown camp for refugee children from Rhodesia

Mr Nkomo's youngest recruits

From a Correspondent Victoria Camp, Zambia, Dec 14

The sound can first be heard from far off, somewhere in the midst of the tents and roundabouts at the crest of the hill. Slowly it grows louder, and the rhythmic chant: "Hey, hey, hey" becomes distinguishable.

Finally, from beyond a bend in the muddy path, emerges the camp of the children of Rhodesia. The children of Rhodesia, the young members of Mr Joshua Nkomo's "struggle", whom the Rhodesian African nationalist leader showed to a group of Western journalists.

This camp, about 16 miles east of Lusaka, is the nursery of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front.

While their parents or older brothers and sisters are in military training, or inside Rhodesia itself fighting the bush war, these children are cared for and provided with an education.

About 3,200, mostly girls, live in this camp, and an equal number of boys are housed at a smaller camp nearby.

There are at present some 26,000 Rhodesian refugees in Zambia, according to United Nations figures. Most arrive here through Botswana. Cross-

ing directly into Zambia from Rhodesia is difficult, because of the Zambezi river which divides the two countries. Rhodesia's border with Botswana is sparsely patrolled and with natural barriers many Rhodesians simply walk into that country.

They are housed by the Botswana Government at transit camps at Selibe Piki and Francistown. Then quickly flown to Lusaka at Zambian Government expense.

Approximately 1,500 refugees make the trip each month, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Once inside Zambia, many of the men and women board Aeroflot flights to Angola where they are trained by Cuban advisers, according to ZAPU officials. Others remain at the ZAPU military bases in Zambia.

It is believed that some 5,000 guerrillas are in training, with about the same number ready for battle.

Much controversy surrounds the children, Rhodesia has repeatedly said that many of them were abducted from their homes or orphanages by Patriotic Front guerrillas.

The most recent important incident occurred early this year when about 400 students crossed into Botswana from a Swedish Lutheran school in Rhodesia, about 10 miles from the border. ZAPU allowed the children's parents to come and talk with

them, but only 53 decided to return to their homes.

"A lot of stupid stories have been made up about these children," Mr Nkomo said. He insisted that all the children in the camps had crossed over "of their own free will."

Whether their parents are alive or not, all the children are in reality "war orphans," Mr Nkomo said. All would remain at the camps for two to three years after Rhodesian independence.

Throughout the visit, as journalists inspected the large military-type tents, the primitive kitchen, little more than a tin roof over an open fire, the sound of the children singing filled the air.

Money to run the camps comes from several international relief organizations and is administered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

A school and dormitories are being built by two Yugoslav firms, with materials supplied by the East Germans. The children are taught primary school basics, including English, and receive political indoctrination in open air classes.

Mr Nkomo told the Western journalists they had been brought to the camp to see that the children were being well-treated and cared for. He denounced as "vicious lies" allegations that they were being starved or slaughtered to save money to buy guns.



Empty chair; Soviet leaders around Mr Brezhnev's vacant front seat voting in unison yesterday.

Mr Brezhnev absent as budget is presented

Moscow, Dec 14.—President Brezhnev was mysteriously absent today when the Supreme Soviet, the country's Parliament over whose work he nominally presides, met to approve economic plans and a budget for 1978.

His seat on the leadership benches under a statue of Lenin in the Kremlin Palace was empty.

It was believed to be the first time for some years that Mr Brezhnev has failed to appear for the start of the winter session of the Supreme Soviet.

Western analysts said it was especially strange since Mr Brezhnev, the party leader since 1964, had been elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet's permanent Presidium only in May, and this would have been his first full regular session in the post.

Soviet officials at the session declined to discuss reasons for his absence and Western diplomats attending the session said they knew of no pressing

business that might have kept him away.

Mr Brezhnev, who is 71 on Monday, yesterday delivered what was officially described as a "long speech" on the economy to the party's policy-making Central Committee.

It was announced in Bonn today that Mr Brezhnev has postponed a meeting with Herr Willy Brandt, the president of the Social Democratic Party, scheduled for Friday in Moscow. Herr Brandt's spokesman said Moscow gave no reason for the sudden postponement.

Before hearing a report on the economy in 1977, the assembly unanimously approved the appointment of three new members of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

At the Supreme Soviet session Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, and Mr Nikolai Baibakov, the head of the State Planning Committee, announced exceptionally modest economic targets for 1978, including the smallest increase in heavy industrial production since the Second World War

and an unchanged defence allocation.

Mr Baibakov said overall industrial production would rise by a total of 4.5 per cent next year, compared to the already modest 5.8 projected for 1977.

Heavy industry, traditionally a priority area, would rise only by 4.7 per cent compared to an estimated 6.6 per cent for the present year. This will be the smallest increase since 1945.

Labour productivity, a key indicator in Moscow's drive for industrial efficiency, is set to increase by 3.5 per cent, only 0.2 per cent higher than the 1976 rise which was the lowest for at least 25 years.

Mr Baibakov, surveying the year's economic performance, said productivity was not growing fast enough. He took several sectors, including the railway, metal and building industries to task for shortcomings.

Mr Garbuzov announced that Russia's defence spending will lead to poor grain and sunflower crops and a drop in poultry production.—Reuter and UPI.

pursued a peace-loving foreign policy, but "at the same time it is taking care of the country's security and defence capacity."

There had been minor cuts in declared defence spending for 1975 and 1977.

But Western defence analysts believe the publicized figures are only operating and military construction costs, leaving out weapon procurement and research. They say actual Soviet spending on defence needs could be three to four times the stated budget figure.

Turning to agriculture, he announced that the Soviet Union's grain crop this year totalled 195,500,000 tonnes.

Earlier in the session Mr Baibakov had announced average grain productivity figures which indicated a 1977 grain harvest of 195,400,000 tonnes. There was no explanation for the slight discrepancy.

Mr Baibakov said bad weather had led to poor grain and sunflower crops and a drop in poultry production.—Reuter and UPI.

New York court told of horrors in Nazi camp

From Michael Leapman New York, Dec 14

In a small, brightly lit courtroom on the thirteenth floor of Manhattan office block Mrs Lea Rosenbera Gordon, 72-year-old Israeli, came here today with Mr Boleslav Maikovskis, a retired Long Island carpenter a year her senior.

According to her sworn evidence, it was the first time they had met since 1941 when she had watched him kick and beat fellow Jews in a Latvian detention camp and single out those who were to be killed.

Mr Maikovskis is not on trial for such offences. The hearing is in an immigration court. It is to determine whether he made a false declaration to obtain a United States visa in 1951.

Immigration regulations bar from entry into the country people who have "advocated or who assisted in the persecution of any person because of race, religion or national origin."

Mr Maikovskis came to the United States from Germany in 1951. If the case results in his deportation, he could be sent to the Soviet Union, where he has been sentenced to death in absentia for war crimes.

Apart from one emotional clash with Mr Maikovskis's lawyer, the onlookers sat attentively as Mrs Gordon, speaking in Yiddish through an interpreter, gave an account of his life in a detention centre near Dvinsk in the autumn of 1941.

Mr Maikovskis, who has cited the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination and refused to give evidence, was dressed in a sober blue suit with a red tie and heavy black glasses. A very neat, grey sideburns who looks fit for his age, he sat two chairs away from Mrs Gordon.

Mrs Gordon said she had been a teacher, living in the ghetto area of Dvinsk with her 12-year-old daughter and her mother. Her husband had died in 1936.

When the Germans invaded she fled from the city but one night, with some 14,000 other Jews, she was taken to the detention centre, a two-storey building in a courtyard.

"Every day 'actions' took place and they took people away so there became fewer and fewer people," she said.

"Actions" is the word she and other witnesses use for the Germans' practice of assembling people in the courtyard in two groups. One of the groups would be led away, never to be seen again. "They said they were taking them back where they came from, but it was not true," Mrs Gordon said.

Mr Maikovskis, according to the witnesses, played a leading role in the actions. He took a woman named Frieda, "my kind," Mrs Gordon said. "Her little girl was with her."

"He pushed her and she fell down and he pushed her to the other side [the group to be liquidated]. He best her with a police club. She fell and he pushed her and kicked her."

For more than an hour, Mrs Gordon catalogued similar occurrences: a pregnant woman kicked as she fell to the ground; a singing teacher chosen for "liquidation" because he was alleged to have taught children to sing the "Internationale".

Eventually, the lawyer asked whether Mrs Gordon could be the man responsible in the courtroom. She gestured towards Mr Maikovskis and, for the first time, showed emotion. She asked for a drink of water and there was a short recess to let her recover her composure.

During the recess the emotions of some of the spectators also boiled to the surface. They directed their spleen towards Mr Joseph Lombardo, the defending lawyer. "How does it feel to be sitting next to a murderer?" one woman shouted.

The judge returned to warn solemnly of the consequences of any further disruption. The hearing resumed. The arid descriptions of beastliness continued.

Dvinsk is a long way from Manhattan and 1941, long years ago. But Mrs Gordon is not the only one who remembers.

Karamanlis speech lays blame on Turks

From Mario Mediano Athens, Dec 14

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, today laid the blame for the Greek-Turkish disputes rested squarely on Turkey. "It is Turkey, not Greece, that seeks to alter the legal status both in Cyprus and in Aegean," he said.

The Prime Minister was reading his Government's statement of policy to the newly elected Parliament.

Mr Karamanlis said: "Turkey, through its actions, is trying to mobilize international reactions against her. Greece would wish that the speeches should be repeated in the same tone and constructive proposals on the substance of the Cyprus problem."

The Greek-Turkish dialogue in the Aegean had, he said, been hampered by Turkey's frequent changes of heart.

He reaffirmed that "Greece's place is, by dint of tradition and necessity, in the democratic West". Those who advocated severing these links were "playing Turkey's game since Turkey's strength would then be multiplied at the expense of Greece."

Pro-Western guerrillas claim Angola successes

Lisbon, Dec 14.—Pro-Western guerrilla groups claimed today that a new fighting has broken out in Angola, causing numerous Cuban and East European casualties.

They said their forces massacred one Cuban garrison in a suburb of Bie, another in a town near the coast, and destroyed three hotels housing East European technicians in the port of Lobito.

The attacks were part of a co-ordinated guerrilla assault on urban areas in response to the anti-guerrilla campaign launched in the countryside by reinforced Cuban and Government troops, the groups said.

The National Union for Angola's Total Independence (UNITA) has launched 11 attacks in the past three weeks on almost every important town in central Angola and had cut the strategic Benguela railway in several places.

Sources with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) said its forces had been given similar orders for action in the north, but to they still had not received reports on the attacks because of communication difficulties.

In the Lobito raid, a UNITA spokesman said at least 10 East German technicians were killed, as well as an unknown number of Bulgarian officials and Cuban troops protecting them.

He said the guerrillas also shot down a helicopter attacking them and destroyed a Soviet-made Antonov 26 transport aircraft on the ground.

The aircraft was blown up in Bie, where the electricity was knocked out by the destruction of a nearby hydroelectric dam.

Both UNITA and the FNLA have been fighting in the jungle since the Marxist Popular movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) gained control of the country with Cuban military backing in a civil war two years ago.

As a prelude to the latest outbreak of violence, the size of the Cuban Army stationed in Angola was increased from 15,000 to an estimated 19,000 men.

Recent Western intelligence reports have indicated that these extra forces might have been sent to Angola pending a decision by Cuba to use them to intervene more heavily in the fighting in Ethiopia.

The reports said this was indicated by the transfer of a leading Cuban combat commander, General Arnaldo Ochoa, to Addis Ababa.

The reports said the 2,000 Cubans already in Ethiopia were too small a force to rate such a senior commander.

In contrast, the need for more Cuban troops to preserve security in Angola has been growing more evident in recent months.—UPI.

Saudis promise support for peace efforts

Riyadh, Dec 14.—Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, was assured today of Saudi Arabia's support for efforts to achieve a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, a State Department spokesman said.

After more than three hours of talks here, Mr Vance felt Saudi Arabia is playing and intends to play a constructive role towards a peaceful evolution of the problems in the Middle East, the spokesman said.

The Saudis were "totally committed to assisting in any way they can to a comprehensive peace settlement and the pursuit of peace. That role is ongoing right now."

Mr Vance has expressed no public support for the solo peace moves of President Sadat of Egypt. American officials say this is because the Saudis are trying to play a mediating role between Egypt and Syria.

President Assad of Syria saw Saudi leaders last week.

King Hussein of Jordan, who also is trying to heal the splits in the Arab world that followed Mr Sadat's visit to Israel, it was announced here today.

Mr Vance's talks also encouraged him to believe that oil prices will not be increased at the meeting of the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Caracas on December 29, the spokesman said.

The Secretary of State reported to the Saudi leaders on his talks in Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. He returns to Washington tomorrow morning and will report immediately to President Carter.

On Friday morning, Mr Vance and President Carter will see Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, who left early today for Washington.—Reuter.

New clues in Holden murder

Cairo, Dec 14.—Egyptian police investigating the murder on December 6 of David Holden, chief foreign correspondent of The Sunday Times, are checking the movements of two Jordanians who left Egypt the next day.

Al Alram said the men travelled with Mr Holden from Amman and left the airport with him in a taxi.

A third Jordanian, carrying the murder weapon, apparently met them in Cairo.—Agence France-Press.

Appeal lodged against jail term for nurse

Bangkok, Dec 14.—Lawyers for Rita Nightingale, the British nurse jailed for 20 years here last week for attempted drug smuggling, said today that they filed an appeal against the sentence yesterday. Judgment on the appeal could take more than a year, a spokesman added.

Miss Nightingale, aged 24, from Blackburn, is sharing a cell with eight women in Larao Yao women's prison. "She has her own mosquito net, which is quite a luxury," the spokesman said.

She was arrested in March at Bangkok's Don Muang airport and charged with trying to smuggle 7.7lb of heroin to Europe.—Reuter.

Team die in air crash

Evansville, Indiana, Dec 14.—A chartered DC3 twin-engine aircraft, with 29 people on board, including the basketball team of the University of Evansville, crashed into a brush-covered ravine shortly after take-off in dense fog last night, killing all the occupants.

Experts said that Korchnoi, playing white, was in a better position than he sealed his forty-second move. He leads the series 6-2.

Under the new law, the maximum salary to be taxed will increase progressively to \$46,600 in 1987 and the maximum percentage to be paid to 7.15 per cent—making a maximum social security contribution of \$3,048 each by worker and employer.

Everyone will pay the same percentage, and the new rate has therefore been denounced as regressive.

Black groups join forces with unions on jobless

From Frank Vogt Los Angeles, Dec 14

America's leading civil rights organizations have strengthened their ties with the nation's trade unions to form a powerful coalition that is determined to pressure the Carter Administration to adopt more stimulative economic policies.

As the twelfth biannual constitutional convention of the AFL-CIO trade union organization drew to a close here, Mr Benjamin Hooks, the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), told the delegates:

"We are facing, I think, a conservative era when the forces of the new right are constantly asking: 'What is it that blacks and labour want?' But let me assure you that we shall not be deterred. . . . We shall work together."

The conference was ended on a high note with the union leaders and the civil rights leaders sending a clear warning to Washington that unless Congress and the Administration take action to fulfill the goals of these organizations,

Big US tax rise to meet welfare benefits

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Dec 14

Congress agreed this morning on increases in social security contributions amounting to \$227,000m (about £126,000m) over the next decade. It is by far the biggest tax increase in American peacetime history.

The American social security system is wholly financed out of its revenues. Its benefits, lavishly by European standards, are firmly attached to the cost of living. With high unemployment, rising benefits and increasing numbers of pensioners, the system would have gone into the red next year.

The new levy, which passed a joint committee of the two Houses of Congress this morning, ought to ensure the system's solvency until the end of the century.

There will be no increases in social security payments next year, which happens to be election year, under the new law, although workers' contributions will go up under existing law.

This year's maximum payment is \$965 and next year's will be \$1,071—5.85 per cent of wages up to a maximum salary of \$16,500 this year and \$17,700 in 1978.

Workers and employers will continue to contribute equal sums, despite a vigorous effort by some congressmen to make employers pay more.

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Stranger strikes again

Los Angeles, Dec 14.—Police suspect that a murderer they have called "the hitless stranger" was responsible for killing a young girl found strangled and nude on a brush-covered hill at dawn. She was the eleventh such victim since early November.

US farmers protest Washington, Dec 14.—Fifty tractors, one for each state, drove slowly round the White House in the rain here to mark the start of a national strike by United States farmers, who are protesting about rising costs and falling prices.

Curbing arms sales

Washington, Dec 14.—The United States and the Soviet Union opened talks here on the possibility of restricting sales of conventional weapons to Third World nations.

Family jailed in

When the Germans invaded she fled from the city but one night, with some 14,000 other Jews, she was taken to the detention centre, a two-storey building in a courtyard.

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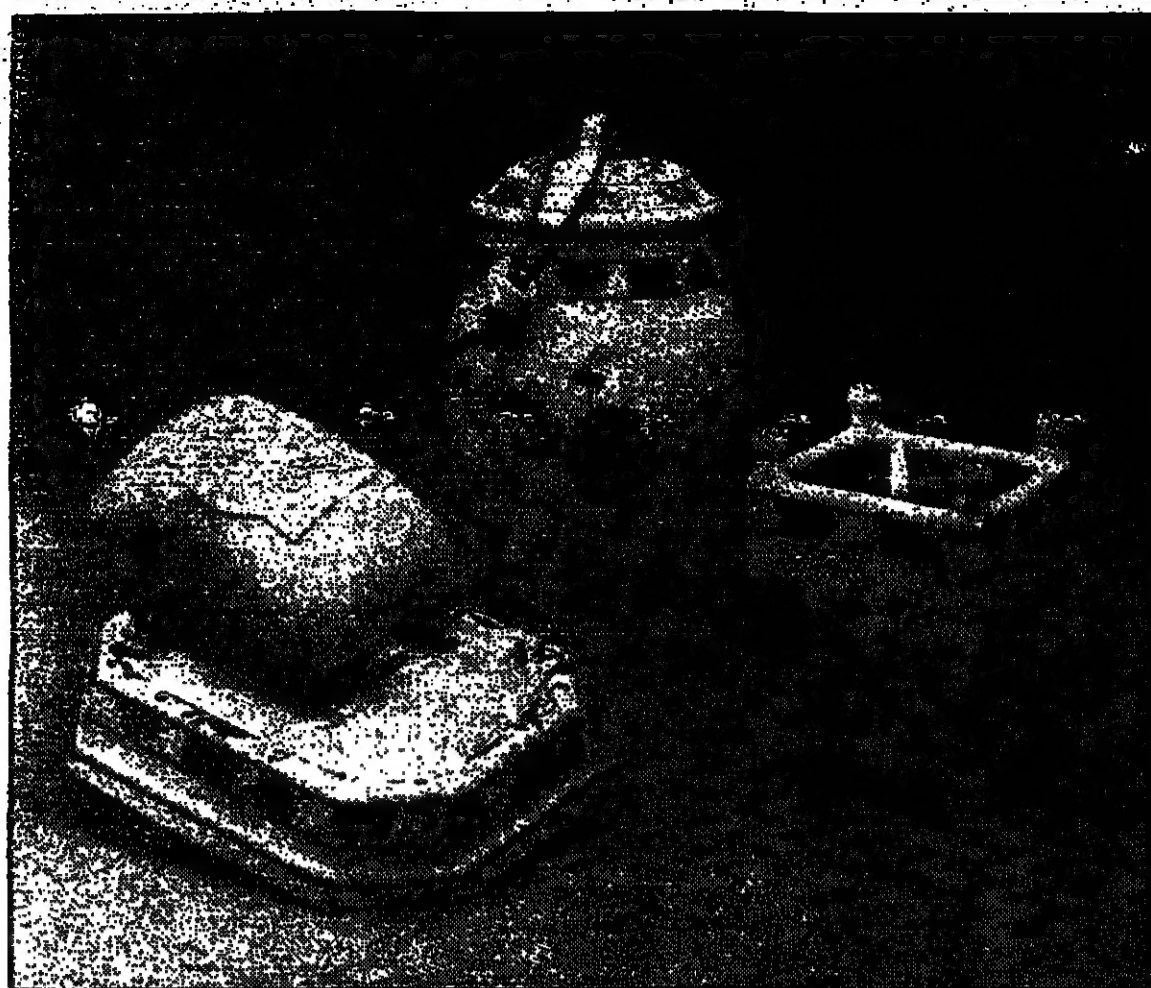
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Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Above: Estée Lauder's blue and white china, copied in pattern from an antique design. Soup holder £8, perfume bottle £12 and bath salts in a jar £20. Harrods only.



Stuart Devlin's silver soup ladle, £275.73, two cigarette cases from Anne Bloom, of a girl getting into a bath, £450, and a nude with dove, £385. Tortoiseshell and gold bracelet, £900, from Boucheron, 180 New Bond St, with a tortoiseshell and gold watch, £600



A selection from The Clerkenwell workshops. Goblet by Robert Glover, silversmith, £116, tricycle horse by Alex Fried, model maker, £69, zodiac egg, £300, by Richard Geere, and two brooches by Stella Dalg, one of a palm tree, £57.50 and the other of snowdrops in a vase, £103.50.



Wisp of a Janet Reger nightdress, £64 in black, rose, beige, ebony or white from 2 Beauchamp Place and 33 Brook St. 629-6504.

All I want for Christmas is the best

One of the many charms of the best is that it has a future. If passed on as a gift, then the recipient, and if sold, the purchaser—and the purchaser after him—must be perpetually enchanted by something which represents the scene of a particular place. I am a self-confessed aristophile, perfectly content to slum along without if I cannot have what I consider to be the best.

Note the qualification: what I consider to be the best, for I recognize that there may be those who view my choice of presents with a mixture of aesthetic nausea and financial scandal. But then what is investment in the best, or better still commissioning of the best, if it is not personal, even self-indulgent? One man's individual confidence is, after all, another man's advantage.

I like the best in "craft work". I am not interested in the deliberate thumbprint on the pottery jug, or the rough-hewn inaccuracies of a textile piece. I believe that the future of the artist-craftsman lies in carrying forward the frontiers of his art—one of the reasons I so much admire the skater John Curry.

So I should like to own (another) textile work by the artist Candace Bayliss. I should like in fact to have "The poem of the Pillow" a Japanese triptych on sale now at the admirable Prescott Gallery, Cropredy, Banbury, Oxon (029 575 660) in which the ladies and gentlemen are entirely contrived, three-dimensionally, of the most exquisitely wrought tapestry, finished with Belle Epoch hairdoes of real horsehair. Such is the exemplary level of their craftsmanship that they might have been made on an industrial loom, or painted indeed, such is their precision of feature. In fact they are entirely hand made, and totally lovely. Then what of the silver ladle by Stuart Devlin, the Australian silversmith who has now moved from table settings to the art table—and chairs—as I have taken up "chairs" the original and increasingly search for modern technique from the one to the other? The ladle is hammered entirely by hand, from a piece of silver eight inches long. It has a rounded, thick bowl, a ridged handle and

looks as though it might have been cast, so perfect is the craftsmanship of the spoonmaker who produced it. Once again, it is the best, and carries an ancient technique forward, away from that fearful con-dolly/yogger wheel/dumb print syndrome that too much of the craft revival people have to cater to in order not to frighten the new generation of patrons.

On the same carrying-forward tack, let me commend Clerkenwell Promotions, 21 Clerkenwell Close, London, EC1 (01-253 6101) which is a central marketing agency set up by the tenants on a non-profit making basis. The Close houses a luthier, glider, cabinet-maker, upholsterer and a whole host of other makers. Personally, I want some stained glass (representational or modern) for Oxfordshire but also for a perfect present, why not have a book bound? My books are among my dearest friends, and get the same rough and vital treatment as other groups. I read the same things over and over, and I would dearly like my D. M. Low paperback of the Decline and Fall, or my Portable Dorothy Parker in a splendid back worthy of their style. (Of course, I'd keep a paperback for travelling) but it just seems to me the most lucid orison.

For the man who has everything, including, if one is to believe the government, a nasty disease coming up, I can present the best in chic risk-taking. Anne Bloom, 4 Grosvenor St, W1 (01-493 0526) has got together a collection of wicked cigarette cases, any of which, when presented ought to ensure that your future is assured. Likewise that sensational Reger nightie. Clad in sheer lace. If you fall in your objectives in life wearing this, I think you ought to think about another direction in life.

I get very nervous when people give me cosmetics, or scent, because I have strong views on colour, and on how I smell. I am therefore grateful to Estée Lauder for lifting the whole thing out of the realms of "does she wear pink chocolate, or chocolate pink?" and producing a ravishing range of so-called cosmetic presents which instead of land-

ing one in the agony of exchange, the nervous of he doesn't understand me, are just simply beautiful packages, taken from the highest source, filled with goodies for now, but with an afterlife. Little things mean a lot. The best flowers mean white, highly scented from Fushook and Gould in Sloane Street. I covet the cut jobs, but, intrinsically mean, even prefer the same in plantable outdoor settings. True, there are moments when those splendid dishes resemble a pet's grave, but then, being a strong minded girl, I put the moss round my climbing pot plants, dip the dish (usually very pretty) in the Phillips DW and serve up the familiar roast on same, and put all the bits into the garden, which, you must admit just about answers all my demands for a now and future present.

Chocs I hardly touch, but my faint knowledge of the things persuades me that they must be from Richoux and should be covered in dark chocolate, be two eights of an inch thick, and filled with white peppermint.

For those who have disliked every suggestion so far, I can add that Brownie in South Molton Street are now stocking the most lovely and exotic clothes from Rome by Bora Kozak, to visit whom devoted readers will remember that I climbed through a hole in a roof. Uncommitted, you might like to give a voucher for chic—the smartest in the form of a silver key to Wardrobe, 42 Chiltern St. (01-486 5064) and 25 Old Bond St, from £10 to £500.

My last choice is very personal. I have mentioned before Pennington, 41 Wellington Street, Covent Garden. Tiny, ultimately recherché, just available in Bergdorf in New York, is not the sexiest scent of all Hammam Bouquet, supposedly for a man, but then, what more exotic than to wear it oneself and thus imply the recent flight from the arms of the enchanter. Do not be mean. If you intend to pinch it yourself, go to the Estée at £10 the oz. Pennington prefer to write the name of the possessor on the label, but you can always play safe with such phrases as "To my darling" . . . which will make your husband very happy.

enter Chloé

A woman does not put on my fragrance. She enters it.



A new fragrance as elegant and intense as the man who designed it. And as one-of-a-kind as the woman who wears it.

Parfums Lagerfeld - Paris

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10 stranded female Mink Coats reduced from £3100 to £1850

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Stranded Mink Jackets reduced from £895 to £595

Fur-lined Raincoats from £250 to £150

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Raccoon Coat as picture £500

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Smaller than a thumb, the electronic brain of the SINGER Futura invites you to enjoy an entirely new kind of sewing.

A 1977 Ideal Home Blue Ribbon winner, the SINGER Futura is the world's first and only sewing machine with an electronic brain.

Press a button and the brain obeys you. Stitches appear instantly. Buttonholes neatly start and finish themselves off. The bobbin winds itself inside the machine.

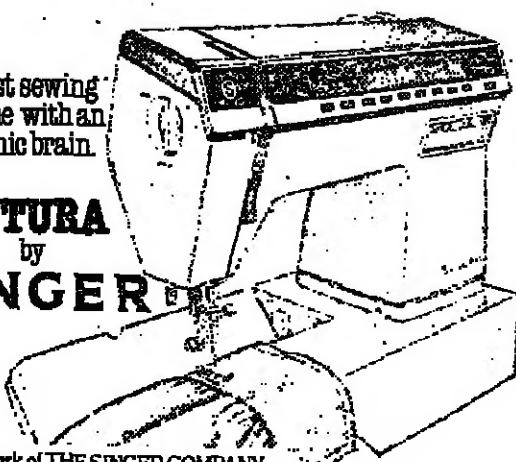
There's never been a sewing machine so capable, and

yet so easy to use. If you're looking for that extra-special Christmas present, the Futura's a brainwave. SINGER IS EVERYWHERE! There are over 320 Singer shops and approved dealers in the UK. Find your local Singer shop in the phone book.

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EEC farm fears unfounded

by Adam Pappalardo

Greek accession to the EEC will strengthen rather than weaken the negotiating position of Greece and Italy in seeking a revision of the Common Agricultural Policy on Mediterranean crops.

That is because these countries, like Greece, are seeking to develop their agricultural economy mainly by improving crop structure, and not merely by pursuing a protectionist policy for their products.

Moreover, the application of Spain and Portugal cannot be an obstacle to Greece's accession. After all, Greece became an associate member of the Community in 1961, under a treaty which is so broad and important that it makes Greece's case wholly distinct from that of every other country that subsequently became associated with the EEC.

Under that treaty, Greece and the Community have assumed important obligations. Both sides are committed to equal treatment of their products in each other's

markets, to harmonising agricultural policies, and to common action in social and economic matters.

Nor should it be forgotten that Greece's accession is expressly envisaged in the preamble to the association agreement. The treaty was put into effect immediately and, despite being frozen during the dictatorship—which did not, however, prevent tariff cuts on Greek imports from the EEC—it still functions normally and retains its vigour.

Consequently, hostility on the part of a member state is groundless since it not only denies the very purpose and validity of the association agreement, but implies non-adherence to a long-term EEC policy and puts to the test the ability of the Community to operate as a unified whole in important matters. Also, the very existence and operation of the agreement leaves no room for doubt that Greece has priority over every other country regarding accession to the Community.

Apart from the formal aspect of the matter, however, there is also a question of substance. Because of the

small volume of Greek agricultural output in comparison with the Community's, Greek farm products will only marginally affect the markets and prices of EEC products.

For instance, Greece's entry will not pose difficulties over tobacco, cotton, mustard and several kinds of fruit, in which the Community is not entirely self-sufficient. Peaches are regarded as a serious problem but recent research in Greece has proved that, with the given elasticity of demand, the surplus will be absorbed by the home market over the next 10 years.

Similarly, Greek wine output, which is just about equal to the per cent of the Community's, is certainly not going to affect the EEC. Most olive oil is consumed locally and the surplus for export could not eliminate the Community's 21 per cent deficit. In fact, the Community imports about 150,000 tons of olive oil a year, while Greece exports about 30,000 tons.

These figures show that the fears and hostility of France in particular, are unfounded. From the point of view of the Community, which centres on competition between North European and Mediterranean

farm products, the latter—mainly tobacco, cotton, fruit, vegetables, olive oil, wine and mustard—are less well protected by the Common Agricultural Policy than North European products.

As a consequence Italy has found that, while other members are increasing their imports of fruit and vegetables from third countries, they are at the same time taking strict measures to maintain Community preference for dairy products and meat.

Burden laid on the prices policy

Moreover, in a memo submitted to the Council of Ministers on July 26, France stated that the growth rate of agricultural income in the Mediterranean area during the last two years had been less than half the rate in other agricultural regions. The difficulty of Mediterranean agriculture is basically a question of structural underdevelopment. Because the Community's agricultural policy is such that only about 5 per cent of the European Guidance and Guarantee Fund's resources are used to finance the EEC's structural

reform policy, the entire financial burden is laid on the prices and market policy.

In terms of specific common proposals and of a specific policy of claims on the part of the Mediterranean countries, strengthening their negotiating position would bring about a change of CAP in their favour. The parallel effort to adopt a protectionist policy on Mediterranean products, of the same range and effectiveness as the prices and market policy for the strategic products of Northern Europe, is fully associated with the community's structural policy.

Once the policy on Mediterranean crops has been reformed to promote the production of goods that are in demand in the Community, or to change the product range so that production peaks do not coincide—and once these products are grown and handled in a modernised way, thus reducing their cost—then it will be right and natural for them to enjoy the protection afforded to the Community's other farm products.

Notwithstanding the need to maintain close ties with the Mediterranean countries, the policy on agricultural imports gives rise to problems hindering the accession of Greece and other countries. It needs to be reformed in such a way as to achieve a golden mean between the interests of the farmers of the Community and of countries like Greece, which will sooner or later join the EEC.

In this context, what is the position of Greek agriculture and what are the prospects of improving its structure?

Greece's agriculture is about to begin developing. This is the first time that an agricultural development policy has been introduced in Greece at an institutional and economic level. Farmer cooperatives, group farming and market modernization are being promoted. Savings are increasing and are being channelled into investment in agriculture, particularly in plants for processing farm products.

Accession to the Community would benefit Greek farmers by ensuring the sale of their products at satisfactory prices. If Greece is able, with the help of France and Italy, to reform the CAP in favour of Mediterranean products and agricultural development policy, then both sides will benefit.

Cooperation among Mediterranean countries is essential because solutions are bound to be found to any differences; similarities are far greater and refer to problems which are crucial to development.

All Mediterranean countries stand to gain from rational planning of production and marketing, on the basis of their potential and the Community's requirements, so that their products can be complementary instead of competitive.

Greece has a serious problem in animal husbandry, particularly cattle breeding. Competition from North European livestock producers may have a catalytic effect unless a special policy is pursued by both Greece and the Community.

Greece does not believe in ecological constraints. Given suitable conditions and the allocation of resources, and if the integration of livestock farming is properly negotiated, this sector can be developed as well.

This is not being over-optimistic. Greek agriculturalists are aware of the technical and economic difficulties involved in adjusting production to the Community's requirements. A strong effort will be needed if Greek wine or tobacco is to be standardized and marketed to advantage; an even bigger one will be necessary to place the movement of the rural population and to increase agricultural investment.

The size of the rural population has become the subject of controversy. It is much larger in terms of percentage than in Northern Europe, which is natural, considering the different level of development in the two areas. Recent research has shown that the Greek rural population is 20 to 24 per cent of the total population—about the same ratio as in southern Italy and, at any rate, not at all inconsistent with Greece's overall level of development.

If Greece hopes to succeed in the Community, it is because of the realization that the country must at last come to grips with its agricultural problems, whether it succeeds or not. Greece is determined to follow a national agricultural policy which, after accession, will be organically connected with the CAP and the regional and social policies of the Community.

For Greece, accession will not be a *deus ex machina* which would somehow solve their agricultural problems automatically, without their lifting a finger. They see it rather as an incentive which, if used to advantage, will contribute effectively to the development of Greece's agricultural economy.

Professor Pappalardo is Governor of the Agricultural Bank of Greece.

Year of three decisions

by Mario Modiano

Three important foreign policy issues confronting Greece today—Cyprus, the Aegean dispute and EEC membership—are expected to enter a decisive phase within 1978.

Action on Cyprus seems imminent. Western pressure to effect from Turkey the concessions needed for a solution, have reached a high pitch.

Greek-Turkish talks on the disputed sea-bed and air space of the Aegean, are likely to be resumed shortly. Their eventual future would increase the risks of armed conflict.

Greek entry negotiations with the EEC are drawing to a close, but the moment of truth is near. The Nine will have to decide soon, probably after the French elections in March, whether to admit Greece or turn their backs on enlargement.

The outcome of efforts to solve Cyprus and the Aegean disputes will also largely determine Greece's future relations with the West—both in NATO and bilaterally, with the United States.

In last month's general elections, the Government of Mr. Constantinos Karamanlis won a renewed mandate to tackle these problems and a comfortable parliamentary majority to do it with 172 seats out of 300.

However, for the first time in Greek history, the anti-Western radicals gained second place and a strong voice in the Greek Parliament. It is a voice that Mr. Karamanlis cannot afford to ignore: it represents well over a third of the House.

Pasok, the main opposition party, stands for a complete rupture with NATO, a loose trade link with the EEC, and the ousting of all American military bases from Greece.

This Marxist-socialist party, led by Mr. Andreas Papandreu, has been behind a sustained campaign designed to persuade the Greeks that the Americans and NATO were responsible for the seven years of dictatorship in Greece, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, and even for Turkey's current claims in the Aegean.

With this election platform, Pasok managed to double its votes and quadruple the number of its deputies to 93. The party is expected to put up a common opposition front with the 11 deputies of the pro-Soviet, Greek Communist Party and other radical groups.

The Opposition's main argument is that Mr. Karamanlis's favourite slogan "we belong to the West" had reduced Greece to the status of a satellite and deprived it of much bargaining power. "The West was never too sure about Tur-

key's loyalty", they argue.

The sharp differences between Government and Opposition encompass all three major foreign issues. On Cyprus, while the Government encourages Western mediation initiatives as the only practical way to west concessions from Turkey for a negotiated settlement, the Opposition insists that the issue should be treated as an international problem within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United Nations.

On the Aegean, the Government favours bilateral talks and international arbitration to demarcate Greece's continental shelf boundaries with Turkey in the Aegean. The Opposition rejects all Turkey's claims in the Aegean and insists on a dynamic reaction in case Greek sovereignty is challenged.

On the EEC, the Government's objective is early entry, mainly for political reasons. The Opposition rejects membership as a sell-out to the multinational monopolies, and seeks to force the Nine to eliminate the imbalances to their favour in their trade with Greece.

The emergence of a strong anti-Western Opposition is less disturbing for its impact on parliamentary business than as a revelation of prevailing popular trends. An increasing number of Greeks detest the West as a perfidious and unscrupulous ally. The word "ally" is often

used in inverted commas.

Even the newly-elected leader of the hitherto moderate and pro-Western Democratic Centre Union, Mr. Ioannis Zoridis said recently: "If NATO really wanted, the problems of Cyprus and the Aegean would be eliminated in 24 hours."

Although the Government has the majority in Parliament, its negotiating latitude on the national issues is clearly limited by the threat that by going against popular trends, it is paving the road for a Pasok victory in the next elections.

This delicate balance the Government will have to maintain to some advantage while negotiating on these issues. Until now it was generally assumed that Mr. Karamanlis could impose his will on the Greeks. It was only Turkey, which involves domestic political difficulties to avoid the better part of concessions. Now Mr. Karamanlis will be able to invoke comparable difficulties.

The Karamanlis Government expects the stiffest opposition to come when Parliament is asked to ratify the new bases agreement with the United States, which was initiated last July. All Opposition parties to the left of Mr. Karamanlis want the American bases altogether abolished.

The Government argues that the new agreement places the four main American bases in Greece entirely under effective Greek control. They will also be used by the Greek Armed Forces. The opposition rejects this as a fairy-tale claiming that the bases are here to spy on Greece and will make this country a prime target in case of war. Most demonstrations in Greece, whatever their object, inevitably include the chant: "out with the death bases".

Bases agreement linked to Cyprus peace

Yet, the bases agreement is bound to be a vital component of any American-induced Cyprus settlement because this would be directly related to the lifting of the American arms embargo on Turkey.

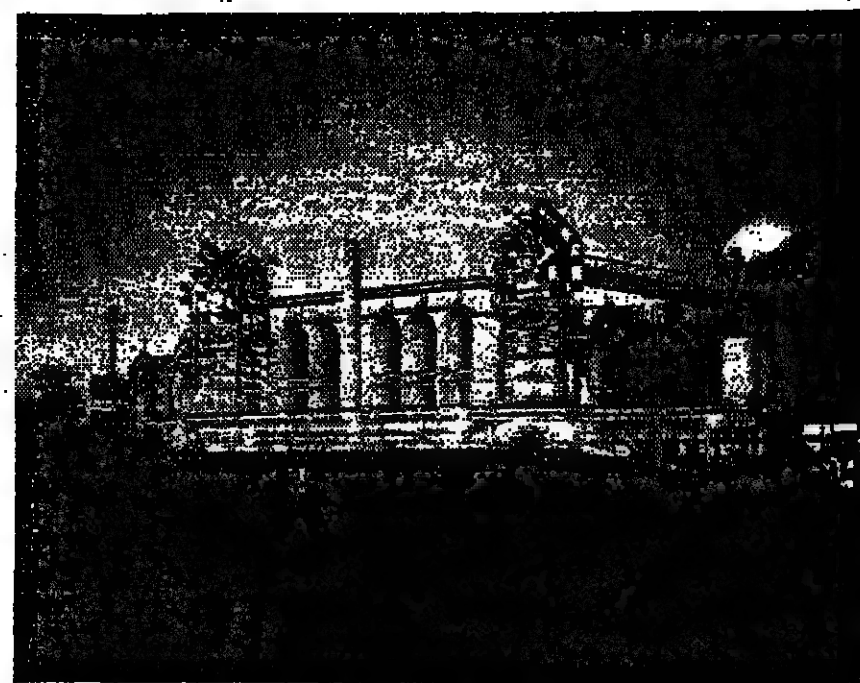
Similar resistance is expected if the Government works out with NATO a special status for Greece: the Greek Armed Forces will remain under national command, but in case of East-West conflict, they will be promptly integrated in the allied command.

Greece has been alienated to some extent from military NATO since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. Mr. Karamanlis is pledged not to rejoin until the problems with Turkey are resolved. The Opposition wants a complete break with NATO and non-alignment.

Popular feeling on these important issues seems to transcend party affiliations. The Greeks are divided but not along the lines defined by the voting strength of political parties. For instance, many supporters of Mr. Karamanlis would be happy to see the American bases go; while many Pasok voters are known to favour Greek membership in the EEC.

The Greek Constitution of 1975 includes a provision which empowers the President to bring important issues directly to the people for a vote by referendum.

In view of the country's new political situation, this procedure may have to be used often in order to avert dangerous deadlocks between the Government and the Opposition over vital national issues.



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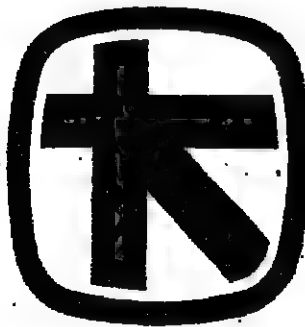
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Economy: stability without security

by Constantine Collmer

Despite the many deficiencies in the Karamanlis administration, never before has so much been achieved by so few, in so short a time.

That was the pre-election verdict of most observers of the nation's first democratic government since the end of the seven-year dictatorship; not for 35 years, they felt, had Greeks lived more democratically and more prosperously than in the previous three, and prospects had never looked so bright. Their verdict was largely confirmed by the results of last month's election.

Nevertheless, economic problems are growing fast, and their solution becomes increasingly difficult. Mr Karamanlis believes that Greece must soon impose a degree of economic self-discipline without becoming entangled in internal social conflicts.

Although the Government has managed to restore some degree of economic stability, it has not managed to inspire the feeling of security

needed for fast and steady growth.

Nevertheless, it has established an average growth rate of 5 per cent over the past three years, and inflation, which at the end of 1973 stood at 31 per cent, fell to 12 per cent by the end of 1976. The 1973 deficit of \$1,200m in the balance of payments was held to \$1,100m in 1976, despite an increase in armament expenses and oil consumption.

Unemployment has been reduced to 1.5 per cent of the total non-agricultural labour force.

Both the national unity and the Karamanlis governments managed to stimulate the economy by artificial injections to increase demand. The means used were the credit increase and the budget deficit - the classic remedies of monetary policy. At the same time, special taxes were imposed on the better off for three consecutive years. As a result, some degree of wealth redistribution was achieved.

Demand was maintained at a high level by increasing

salaries above productivity, by public investment and by abundant credits to the construction sector. A policy of inflationary expansion, pursued to the limits, but the monetary authorities stood by to intervene in case of over-heating.

In applying this policy the Karamanlis Government committed two errors: it underestimated the strength of the inflationary process, and it failed to assess the true course of private investment.

The consumer price index did not drop below an average of 13 per cent - a rate which is considered excessive even for the Greek economy with its long inflationary tradition and which creates serious problems in industrial relations.

Furthermore in private enterprise the big contribution of the construction industry (where productivity is very low) and investment in transport created the illusion that investment was growing satisfactorily. In reality, however, private investment in industry has declined over the past three years.

Sit at one of the outdoor cafes along the main avenues of Athens or Salonika and be dazzled by the number of luxury imported driving cars. They are mostly models that cost fortunes at factory price, but twice as much in Greece because of taxes.

Walk along the streets and admire the luxury boutiques that sell imported models from top Parisian fashion houses. Or stroll in a Greek supermarket, and discover how many different kinds of caviare there are in the world or brands of champagne, no need to say.

There is great prosperity in Greece, but something has gone wrong with people's priorities. Domestic economies are collapsing. Over-spending is breeding inflation, swelling the imports bill, and distorting development by channeling investments to the manufacture of luxury items.

Double your money to buy a car

Between 1974 and 1976 overall Greek imports increased by about 7.5 per cent a year. But imports of non-essential manufactured consumer goods rose by 34 per cent a year: from £223m to £400m. This bill is expected to increase to £570m this year, thus equalling the cost of fuel imports.

Statistics of over-consumption in Greece are striking. Within six years, the number of private cars more than doubled - from 220,000 to 500,000 in 1976. Greece paid £160m last year to import new cars. Petrol consumption soared from 587,000 tons to more than a million tons, although Greek petrol, at £2.50 a gallon, is the most expensive in Europe.

During the same period, the number of Greeks who travelled abroad mainly for pleasure (and certainly with more foreign exchange than the £250 allowance) soared from 652,000 to 1,100,000. There were 260 fashion boutiques in Athens. Now there are 780. New night-clubs and tavernas abound. They are packed with wealthy Greeks, comfortably running up bills of between £500 and £1,500 each night.

The per capita consumption of meat which was 24kg in 1960 is now 60kg - an average that fails to reveal the striking disparity of standards between city-dwellers and those who live in the country. Average meat con-

sumption in Athens, for instance, would be 80kg - equal to the EEC average. Yet, when the Community's per capita income stood at \$2,500, meat consumption did not exceed 45kg a head.

The Greek Government is concerned by these new trends. Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, appealed to the Greeks to spend less and save more. He told them: "We Greeks tend to indulge in the life-style of the West Europeans although we do not possess their resources. So we let people's needs rise faster than their incomes."

Who are these wanton consumers?

Professor Neophytos Zolotas, governor of the Bank of Greece, said in a report on consumerism: "These incomes are mainly derived from the retail business which is largely parasitic, but also from some small industrial and technical mechanical installation and repair business, and from certain groups of self-employed individuals. These remain effectively unmixed and constitute the principal source of demand for luxury goods and over-consumption."

The governor called for action to tap this tax-free revenue which creates broad margins for licentious consumption. Greek tax inspectors confess it is almost impossible to tap the income of Greek physicians, lawyers,

engineers or even of small craftsmen who make big money, such as electricians, plumbers or the television repair men.

One suggestion is to impose a professional tax to be scaled in collaboration with the appropriate associations and unions. Every professional would pay an annual levy in return for the licence to practice.

Government measures to restrict luxury spending included this year a 25 per cent levy on such imports as caviare, liquor and wines, furs, precious stones, and elaborate recording equipment; and increased purchase and circulation taxes for cars over 1900cc.

But consumers seem to have taken these shocks in their stride and there was no indication of a substantial decline in sales.

Professor Zolotas said: "We are gradually evolving into an economy of considerable wastage and this, unless controlled, will prevent the balance of current accounts to deteriorate, and prevent us from achieving the desired growth rates."

What is worse is that over-consumption by these untaxed groups is creating a pattern of emulation that influences the lifestyle of large social groups and is distorting the priorities of the national economy.

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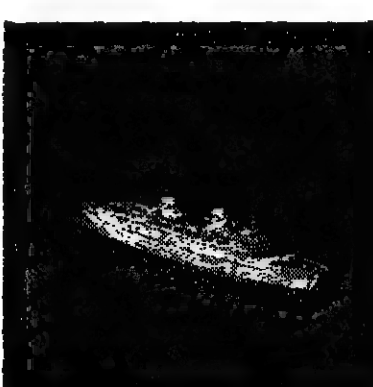
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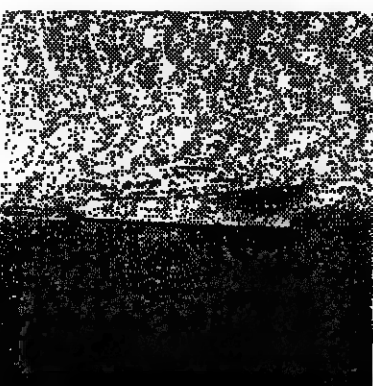
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Second look after rapid growth of tourism

by Sheila Walsh

The tourist industry has firmly established itself in Greece as a major national resource. This year's tourist receipts are expected to reach a record \$1,000m.

The number of visitors is expected to reach four and a half million by the end of the year, which will also be a record. In the first nine months 3,967,879 tourists visited Greece, 337,782 of them Britons. Tourism receipts increased by 22.8 per cent in the same period, while the number of visitors rose by about 10 per cent.

The flow of tourists has more than doubled in the past three years, bringing with it enough foreign currency to offset an appreciable part of the chronic deficit in Greece's balance of payments. All this has developed in a little over a decade from a humble industry, based on family-run tavernas and small hotels. With this rapid growth have come some difficulties.

There is a heightened awareness that the continuing success of the Greek tourist industry does not lie simply in taking up million upon million in the "tourist arrivals" statistics.

The state tourist organisation and the tourism operators are taking a closer, more analytical look, not only at the "growth" of tourism, but at the forms that growth is taking. The tourist is obviously more interested in Greece's beaches, bouzouki, and the holiday atmosphere than in the Greek balance of payments. But those concerned with the national accounts are also concerned with the success of the tourist's holiday.

The Greek National Tourist Organisation took sample polls this year at frontier points, asking departing visitors for their comments. Seventy per cent said they were satisfied with their holidays. Others had complaints which were both predictable and remediable. They included: poor service, the plumbing facilities in some public places, museum hours, unkempt beaches.

The prospect of keeping more than five million tourists happy in the coming year, and an estimated 6,500,000 by 1982, is a challenging one but the Greeks seem confident that they can cope. The country has 9,327 miles of coast, which it would be difficult to crowd, and a steadily expanding hotel capacity which now stands at 229,186 beds.

The question is how to get the right number of tourists and the right number of beds together in the right place at the right time. Greece is seeking the answer in the encouragement of tourist development in more areas, and in a continuing campaign to lure travellers to Greece throughout the year. For the tourist this means a wider choice of holiday or, to the delight of the trade, a series of holidays.

The country's enviable



Tourists outside the Propylaea, the gateway to the Parthenon, Athens.

Corfu, has become the largest private hotel owner in the country.

At Halkidiki in north-east Greece, Mr. John Cernis, the shipowner, has built a self-sufficient holiday resort area that even has its own vineyards that produce excellent wines.

At the same time, in villages on the south coast of Crete and all over the country, families who rented rooms to tourists last summer are investing in extensions on their houses, or making plans for small hotels.

The National Tourist Organisation, operating in an area where private capital might not venture, has announced that 500 more beds will be available for 1978 in renovated village houses in picturesque con-

tinues that are out of the ordinary stream of tourist traffic.

At the same time tourists are making their own choices, dictated by their tastes and their budgets. One tourist organisation's sampling this year indicated that a quarter of the visitors who had been polled had not gone to hotels, preferring to camp or rent rooms in private houses. Of the hotel guests, 45 per cent chose medium-price accommodation, 24 per cent first-class, and 7 per cent luxury class.

This was one of the factors the Greek Federation of Hoteliers noted in a report which said that while 1977 was a record year for the number of visitors it was by no means a boom year for Greek hotels. Hotel occupancy, especially in established tourist centres such as Corfu and Rhodes, had fallen by more than 20 per cent.

Holidays taken for shorter period

Mr. Panayotis Karadontis, president of the federation, attributed this in part to the development of new holiday centres and to tourists seeking shorter holidays or less expensive accommodation. But the fall in hotel occupancy was also a result of the increased number of beds to be filled.

Since 1974 a rise of 14 per cent had taken place in the number of hotels and a 31 per cent increase in the number of beds. He called attention, however, to the sensitivity to any change in the pattern of the industry of areas where tourism has become the chief support of the economy.

Mr. Karadontis estimated that 90 per cent of the economy of the island of Rhodes depends directly or indirectly on tourism, while in Corfu 60 per cent of the economy is geared to the holidaymaker.

The impression that while more tourists are coming to Greece each year they are not spending more money is a cause for concern. An Athens financial journal recently urged a greater emphasis on long-term planning. It said that in the period 1973-76 there had been a rise of 60 per cent in total tourist revenue but only an 18 per cent increase in per capita spending.

Figures from the National Tourist Organisation indicated that there was a 14 per cent increase in per capita tourist expenditure during 1977. And they also indicated that the outlook is good for 1978.

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THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GREECE S.A.

The Greek banking system has been developing fast in the last few decades to keep pace with the rapid growth of demand for banking services reflecting, in turn, the economy's progressing monetisation and development. A basic characteristic of this period has been that an ever increasing part of the population is having recourse to the banking system for depositing their money and settling their transactions. Since the capital market is still not sufficiently developed, most of the savings used for investment financing are channelled through the banks, largely through the commercial banks, which are still one of the principal sources of capital for fixed asset formation even though there are now several specialised investment banks in operation.

The Commercial Bank of Greece is an efficiently organised institution and the second-largest bank in the country by any criterion. Internationally, it occupies the 228th place among the world's 500 biggest banks in terms of deposits, and the 221st place among the 300 biggest banks in terms of total assets.

The origin of the Commercial Bank of Greece can be traced back to the year 1886. Ever since then it has been steadily developing. A few years ago, its modernisation programme took a great step forward with the introduction and subsequent extension of the teleprocessing system. In this respect the Commercial Bank now occupies a pre-eminent position amongst the largest European banks. The Bank's country-wide network of branches and representative offices now consists of 197 branches, 3 permanent agencies, 11 foreign exchange bureaux and 46 rural bus service-lines (mobile banks). The Commercial Bank was the first to introduce in Greece mobile banks which now serve 600 small towns and villages throughout the country.

The Commercial Bank of Greece has played a leading part in the development of the Greek economy, especially in the last twenty years, winning for itself a substantial share of the country's total banking business and supplying a considerable proportion of the funds channelled into productive investment. At the same time it has been constantly strengthening its relations and enlarging the scope of its relationship and co-operation with foreign banks and financial institutions.

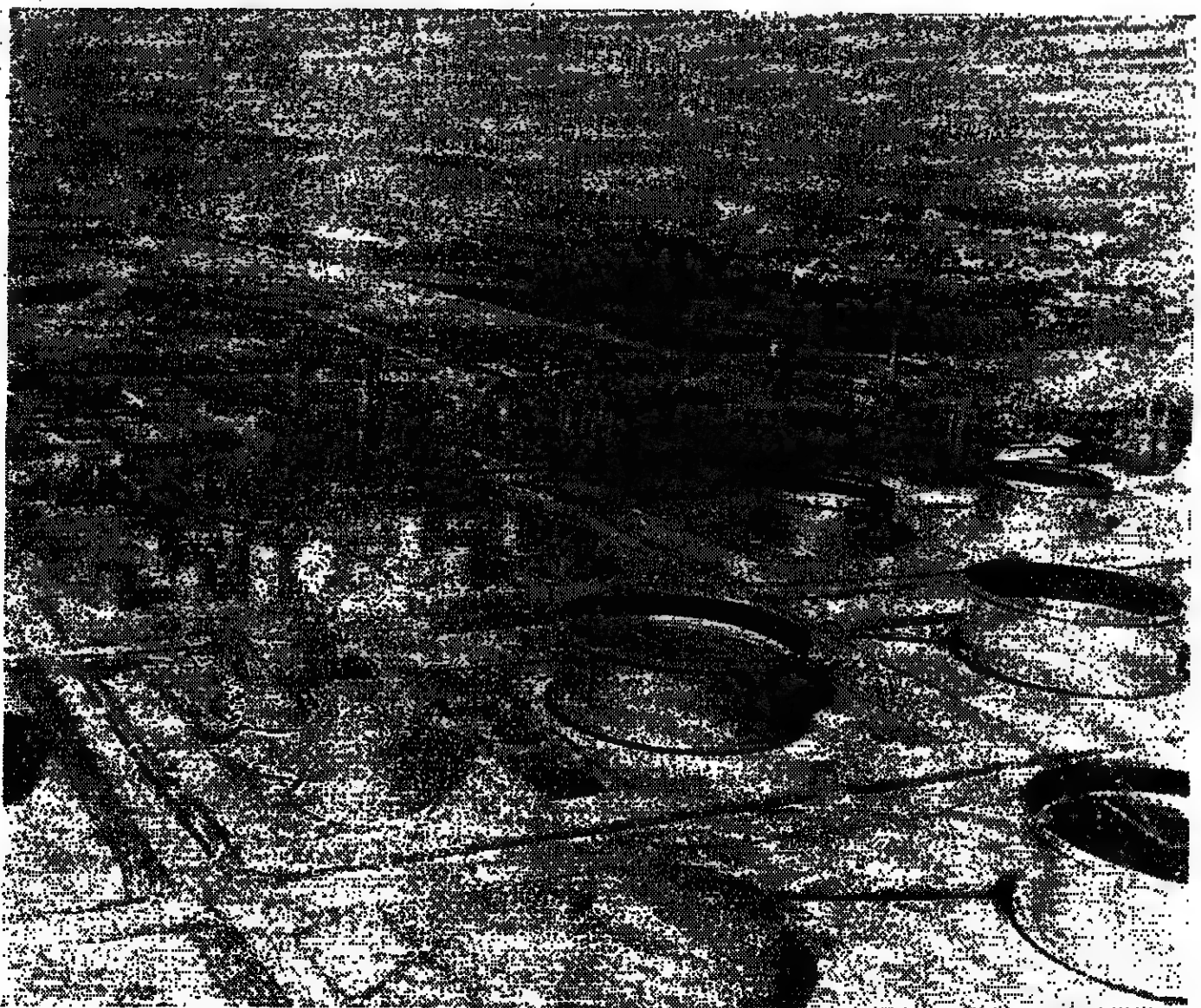
As pointed out by the Bank's Chairman and General Manager, Mr. Evangelos Ellades, in his Report to the last Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders (held in June 1977), the financial position of the Bank has been greatly strengthened recently, following the increase in its share capital effected, by virtue of Law 431/1976, through payments in cash. As a result of this increase, its total capital and reserves rose to the equivalent of approximately \$205 million at the end of 1976. At the same time, there followed a substantial increase in the Bank's liquidity and a considerable improvement in the ratios of the Bank's own funds on the one hand, to deposits or total or selected assets on the other.

The figures below indicate the changes in the Bank's position and volume of transactions, in the period from the end of 1976 to September 30, 1977:

(in millions)	31.12.1976	31.12.1976	30.9.1977
Capital and Reserves	Dra. 1,903 (\$53.4)	Dra. 7,578 (\$204.6)	Dra. 7,578 (\$204.6)
Deposits	" 48,165 (\$1,361)	" 57,580 (\$1,554)	" 68,578 (\$1,867)
Loans and Advances	" 28,587 (\$810)	" 32,527 (\$878)	" 38,887 (\$1,058)
Total Assets or Liabilities	" 88,618 (\$2,488)	" 106,233 (\$2,959)	" 121,348 (\$3,304)

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EXPORT ACTIVITIES TO NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES

by Stephen Farrant

So persistent were rumours in early November of the imminent financial collapse of one 50-ship fleet managed out of Piraeus that the group concerned took the highly unusual step for a Greek firm of publishing its accounts. They showed a net trading profit of just over \$21m for 1976 and a preliminary profit figure for the first half of 1977 of \$10m for the first half of this year.

It was a timely reminder of the fact that Greek operators have in the main survived, and in some cases continue to turn in healthy results on a crisis market which has sent cross-traders under Scandinavian and other flags scurrying for shelter inside government credit schemes, and brought to their knees about 18 leading figures in shipping around the world.

The luckless Colocotronis group—now engaged in a legal marathon with their chief remaining mortgagee, European-American Banking Corporation, over control of those few ships still undisposed of from a 3,500,000-ton fleet—is the only Greek owner of any size yet to succumb.

No other likely candidate has emerged among other big tanker operators, and it is a widely held view that the leading half-dozen or so companies—including names such as Onassis, Nierchos, Goulandris and S. Livanos—are all sitting on a sufficiently large cash-and-assets cushion to ride out even a crisis extended well into the 1980s.

Such indications as occasionally emerge from family

businesses under little obligation to account either to tax authorities or to outside shareholders, suggest that the great majority of the more solid medium-sized fleets managed out of Piraeus, London and New York have also so far weathered the storm in fairly good shape.

It is, though, getting tougher all the time, and those committed to heavy-duty dry-bulk tonnage ordered in Japan during 1975 and 1976 at what were then attractive prices, have been badly hurt by the dollar's recent fall compared with the yen, and the appalling freight market on which those heavily debt-burdened ships must now trade.

Increasing international Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) pressures have meanwhile played a major role in the wholesale switching to home registry over the past 18 months of several million tons previously sailed by Greek under flags of convenience. Figures recently released by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs suggest that the Greek fleet—rated one place up as the world's fourth largest in Lloyd's Register returns for mid-1977—may now have passed not only the Norwegian but also the 32 million ton British fleet to claim third place behind Liberia and Japan.

End of September preliminary returns list 3,850 ships of 32,600,000 tons on the Greek registry, gains having chiefly been at the expense of Liberia, which still accounts for the bulk of 950 vessels of some 15 million tons operated by Greeks but registered under other flags.

For Greek owners, with no

Shipping fleets are riding out the financial storm

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For Greek owners, with no

nationality-generated cargo base to fall back on, the October rebuff by Congress of President Carter's oil tanker preference Bill was a major blow (Greek-interest tankers carry up to a third of United States crude imports).

As a result the Union of Greek Shipowners is pressing the ministry to raise the upper limit for foreigners on Greek-flag ships from its present 25 per cent to 45 per cent, and the Govern-

ment to conclude bilateral crew agreements with Pakistan, India, the Philippines and South Korea. The combined effect of these would be to legalize a situation which already exists on many Greek-flag ships, at the same time as it would put more

arrangements beyond the reach of the ILO.

Achieving these two aims—which have predictably met with strong opposition from the Greek Seamen's Union—almost certainly now ranks in most owners' minds as equally important to the draft Bill they hope will quickly be put before the new Parliament guaranteeing, through individual five-year conventions, the present tax-free operating base of

foreign shipping-related service firms established in Piraeus; and to the five-year "grace period" for Greece's offshore shipping company legislation which it is hoped the Karamanlis Government will negotiate as a condition of EEC entry.

The "grace period" would appear to be a reasonable concession for Greece—as the Community's second poorest member in future—to seek, and the Nine to grant, to protect the interests of its largest single industry, its major source of foreign earnings (likely to top \$1,000m this year), and one of the world's great merchant fleets.

The author is international editor, *Natfisk*.



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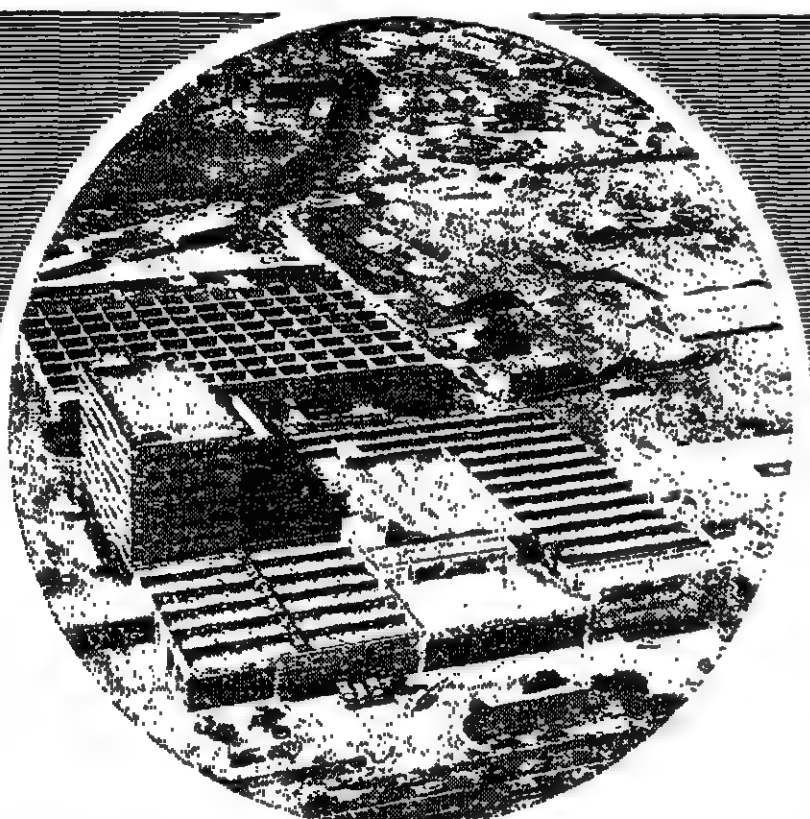
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Hammer and sickle attract one in ten votes

by Mario Modiano

The pro-Soviet Communist Party (KKE) has just won a resounding victory over its rival, the Communist Party of the Interior, the local brand of Euro-communists, in the Greek elections, setting old scores and reasserting its supremacy among the Greek communists.

It was the first time since 1936 that the KKE snooded for election under its own name and the hammer-and-sickle emblem, rather than behind the facade of a popular front. It did rather well.

When Parliament opened this week, the KKE was represented by 11 deputies in a house of 300, including the party's secretary-general, Mr. Charis Floridis. The rival Euro-communists had only one seat.

KKE polled 480,000 votes, as many as all the Communist factions had obtained in the elections of 1974 which were held after the collapse of the seven-year-long military dictatorship.

Half a million votes is not too impressive in absolute numbers, but in the Greek context it represents one out of every 10 votes. It was the cumulative result of three years of hard (and costly) organizational work, after a ban lasting 30 years.

Above all, it was the culmination of efforts since 1968 to restore party unity after the emergence of the dissident group which opted for "communism with a human face". The dissidents challenged the party's loyalty to Moscow and its dictatorship of the proletariat and supported the multi-party system and respect for human rights.

The rift came in February, 1968, when the Greek communists working clandestinely in Greece against the dictatorship began to resent taking orders from the party's expatriate leadership secure in the luxuries of Moscow where they settled after the KKE's armed rebellion collapsed in 1949.

During the party's twelfth plenum, a group led by Mr. Dimitri Patsalidis, one-time premier of a guerrilla government in Greece, revolted and accused KKE leaders of losing touch with realities at home. He demanded an equal voice for the men of the so-called "Bureau of the Interior", who were taking all the risks in Greece.

The group even managed to seize for a few hours the "Free Greece" radio station located somewhere in East Germany, which was the party's main link with its followers in Greece.

The Soviet leaders gave full backing to the KKE to stamp out the rebellion. The dissidents were forced to flee to Western Europe where they found support from the Euro-communists.

The Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia, which they condemned, deepened the breach. The rebels set up the KKE of the Interior and challenged the KKE's most sacrosanct doctrine.

When the Greek junta collapsed in July 1974 and Mr. Constantine Karamanlis became Prime Minister, he legalized both communist parties and let them take full part in the Greek elections of that year.

Still, wallowing in their newly-gained legitimacy, the two factions joined forces with the United Democratic Left (EDA), the party that served as a front for the communists after the KKE was outlawed in 1947 for organizing the civil war. They set up the United Left and polled 9.5 per cent of the vote.

But the KKE gave its supporters discreet guidance to favour only its own candidates on the joint list. When the results came, KKE had elected five deputies, the Interior two, and EDA one.

All efforts for a reunion of the two factions were resisted by the KKE which demanded nothing less than total recantation of the "revisionists" and full submission.

KKE mostly kept a low political profile in the past three years to avoid alarming the Establishment, but it worked hard inside the trade unions and the student associations, where well-disciplined minorities could take control using democratic processes.

The party's success with the students was greater than with the workers. Most of the student unions are today controlled by KKE councils. When the Government attempted to deny the communists this monopoly by legislating compulsory registration in unions, the students' councils rebelled and threatened agitation. The plan was given up.

The KKE's defeat of the dissidents in the last elections was impressive. Even Mr. Babis Drakopoulos, secretary-general of the party "of the Interior" failed to get elected. As for Mr. Patsalidis, the man who started it all in 1968, he failed to capture the seat in Kavala where in 1932 he was elected first KKE deputy of the Greek Parliament.

Significantly, in the thick of the pre-election campaign, Mr. Floridis and leading KKE candidates broke off their electioneering to fly to Moscow to join the celebrations of the 1917 Revolution. Clearly they regarded the Kremlin's blessing as far more convincing to their voters than any campaign arguments.

The KKE has now reasserted its identity in Greece for the first time since the last war. And for the first time since 1968, it can claim the loyalty of the bulk of the Greek communists.

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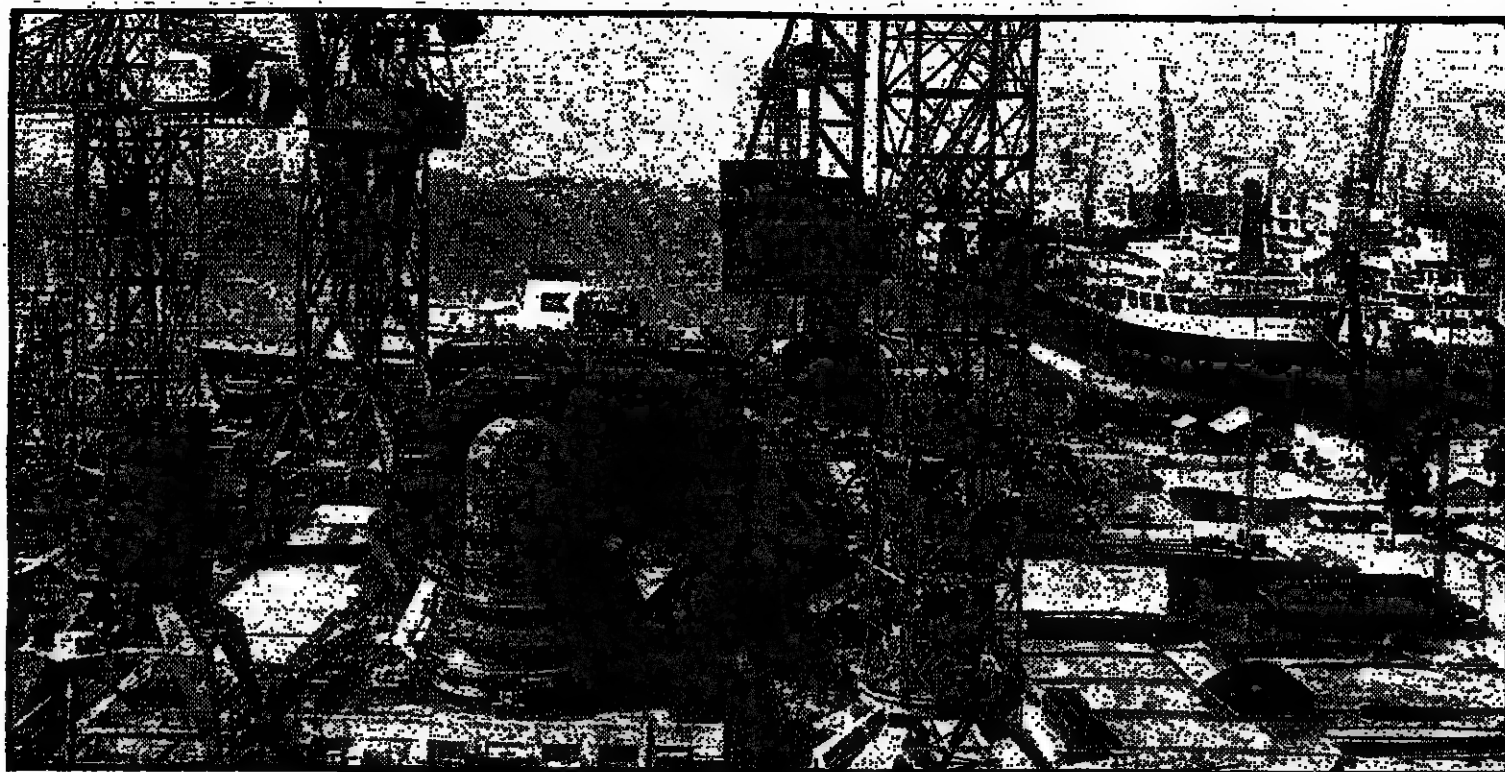
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Bureaucracy delays plans for shipyards



The Hellenic shipyard at Skaramangas. Hellenic is the only firm still building vessels of any size.

in 1975 and 1976 for a proposed yard at Aliveri on the coast of Euboea are still lying idle at moorings while the company wrestles with the bureaucrats over small points on land expropriation and other details.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars-worth of work continues meanwhile to be turned away each month in Piraeus, where the Port Authority's two permanent and two floating installations have been worked around the clock since 1972, and could profitably have been supplemented by another three or four docks in the 6,000 to 30,000 deadweight range. Here it is a monopoly negotiated in 1963 for the Niarchos yard, and later extended just to Eleusis Shipyard, which prevents any upgrading of repair capacity in the port region, or elsewhere inside a 20-mile radius, before 1985.

It is for all that not an entirely negative picture. The Aliveri project finally looks set fair and it agreed it could be capable of handling repairs from 1979.

Hellenic Shipyards brought its new 500,000 ton graving dock into service on schedule over the summer; the 45,000 deadweight capacity dock at the J. C. Caracaras managed Kiklis yard north of Athens has been accepting outside contracts since the end of the year, and the new Neorion Shipyard run by N. J. Gouladiris confirmed last month the placing of an order in West Germany for a 45,000 deadweight dock due for delivery by next August to join the 70,000 deadweight unit already in service off the island of Syros.

Effectively 15 months ago, Eleusis Shipyards recently gave Italian consultants responsibility for a feasibility study of a \$30m conversion of its disused building berth into a graving dock for very large crude carrier repairs.

Overall repair capacity in Greek waters—where some 2,500 vessels of a total 30 million tons have been handled over the past 12 months—could be expanded by the early 1980s to include a total of 18 dry docks, three of them capable of handling tankers of more than 200,000 tons. If costs can be kept down (and at present they compare fairly well with most of the competition in the Mediterranean), there seems no good reason why the industry should not continue to play a profitable and important national role.

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Shipyards in Greece are essentially repair yards, and this has been the case for almost two years. Only Hellenic—where Mr Stavros Niarchos may consider it worth while to keep things moving with further "at cost" orders for his own fleet—still has vessels of any size on its books, with the last of a 19-ship run of 37,000 tonnes due for delivery next autumn.

Recent reintroduction by the Government of loan underwriting and state-backed performance guarantees has perhaps come too late to make much difference, even on contracts from developing nations claimed previously to have been lost for lack of credit.

Although it has brought bankruptcy in its wake to at least one previously flourishing Piraeus builder, it is hardly a tragic situation measured by recent European experience since repair, refit, conversion and shipbreaking have long been the staple output of the Greek industry. Indeed, long before there was any hint of the way world shipbuilders were going to be battered by the recession, it was the general agreement that Greece could, and should, become a major ship repair centre.

There is a huge fleet to service, the industry is above all a generator of foreign exchange, and shipowners themselves were causing up to almost imported risk capital in yards which at worst could be guaranteed a minimum workload from their own fleets.

For a variety of reasons, extending from a certain mistrust of shipowners' motives that still exists in Government circles to sheer official incompetence, little was to come of such plans under the dictatorship. Those projects revived, or put forward for the first time since democracy was restored in the summer of 1974, can hardly be said to have fared much better.

Environmentalist protests held back yard approved for Pylos for so long that health in May of this year, it now looks like a non-starter; a long-standing project for a medium sized facility at Kalamata was finally rejected by the Ministry of Coordination in August with the Calligaris-Poulos group involved claiming it was not even offered an official reason for the negative decision.

Two floating docks purchased by Martinis interests

Moves to West resisted

continued from page 19

At local level this official bureaucracy and inefficiency, with its built-in contempt for the citizen, generated a sense of indignation and people felt forced to resort to political pressure in order to get the state to budge even on ordinary duties.

Private investment shrank and industrial production declined for the first time. This was not only because of the international economic recession. Businessmen complained that the Government's policies, such as socialism and discouraged them from taking risks.

There were other misgivings. Invertebrate anti-communists were shocked by the Government's tolerance towards the communists. They wanted to punish it for allowing communists and anarchists to penetrate schools and universities to indoctrinate and subvert Greek youth.

What is likely to happen now?

The increased strength of the opposition parties in Parliament leaves the Government less latitude to handle major domestic and, particularly, foreign issues at will. That is, up to a point. The Government does not command the two-thirds majority it commanded in the last chamber, but even then it heeded opposition objections to a remarkable degree.

The emergence of Pasok as the main opposition party, presumably with some chance of climbing to power in a future election, can hardly delude the economic establishment or stimulate investments in enterprises that could be taken over by the state if Pasok won.

Some observers argue, however, that this could work both ways: if the establishment continues boycotting Mr Karamanlis's drive for rapid economic development, they will simply enhance Pasok's chances in the next elections.

Pasok's opposition to full Greek membership of the EEC may also influence developments in contradictory ways: the Nine may decide to speed up admission in order to strengthen the pro-European forces in Greece. Alternatively, those Community members opposing enlargement could argue that Greek admission would be futile since, if Pasok came to power, Greece might pull out again.

GREECE'S ELECTRICAL ECONOMY ENTERS A NEW PHASE OF PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Stretching out to every corner of the Greek soil, the powerlines symbolize today the extent and importance of the efforts of the Public Power Corporation. They also stand as the reward of a hard drive for the electrification of the country in harmony with modern technology and contemporary life requirement. Dating back to 1950 when the PPC was established, those efforts never ceased to set new objectives for a better social and economic life for the Greek people.

1950: A START-UP FOR ELECTRIFICATION

The power service the population was receiving twenty-seven years ago could easily be thought of as practically nonexistent or substandard. This is readily explained by the fact that, apart from Athens, Piraeus, Patras and Thessaloniki, all other towns were serviced by low-voltage local stations, operating for a limited period of time every day and selling power at prohibitive rates for the many. So, even though electricity was mostly used for lighting purposes in rural parts, neither the villages nor the rural settlements had access to it. In contrast with the rest of the country, Athens was in fact the only urban centre whose economic and social life was appreciably affected by the applications of electricity.

In exact numbers, the total output of the 400 local stations operating in 1950 barely reached 630 million kilowatt-hours and consumption flickered at 538 million kilowatt-hours. Per capita consumption dwindle at just 71 kilowatt-hours a year.

Of this 538 million KWH consumption, Athens and Piraeus absorbed 152 million KWH, leaving a meagre 386 million KWH for the rest of the country and forming a top-heavy power pattern whereby the capital with 18% of the total population answered for 85% of the consumption and the remaining 82% of the population accounted for just 15% of the total demand. Accordingly, each Athenian consumed a mean 321 KWH a year compared to a scanty 14 KWH for each inhabitant of all other parts.

In 1950, the total installed capacity of Greece's power stations stood at 223,000 KW of which 133,000 KW were gathered in Athens and Piraeus. Besides oil-firing represented 98% of the total output leaving a tiny 2% of hydro-power generation. As a result, the power production depended directly and exclusively on oil imports whereas lignite as primary potential was still unknown to the infantile power economy of those days.

1977: ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTLOOK ON THE ELECTRIFICATION IN GREECE

PPC's contribution to the electrification of the country is chiefly represented by fast rising rates of growth, new structures in our power economy and far-reaching targets.

A comparison with the figure for 1950 reveals that the installed capacity of PPC stations is today 22 times higher (4,836,000 KW), the output 28 times greater (18,000 million KWH), the consumption 30 times higher (16,400 million KWH) and that from 71 KWH for 1950, the per capita yearly consumption has soared to 1,780 KWH.

Today Athens, Piraeus and the entire District of Attiki represent only 36% of the total power sales instead of the 85% of those sales for 1950. Accordingly, from 14 KWH for 1950, the rural per capita consumption has climbed to 1,623 KWH giving the measure of the nationwide rationalization of the power service pattern.

By 1977 the PPC had practically accomplished its rural electrification programme which has been for years an important part of the power plans. Spreading over 9,800 towns, villages and settlements the power networks are offering service to 98.9% of the entire population and cater to basic requirements of the national economy.

This year the sales to industrial customers will absorb 9,200 million KWH or 56% of the total demand leaving 4,200 million KWH to the domestic market, 2,130 million to the commercial market and 250 million KWH to farming applications. Touching on the agricultural market, it is to be noted that by electrifying a large number of irrigation units this year, their total will rise to 61,500 units capable of irrigating 3.1 million στρεμματα of farmland.

Irrespective, however, of the above, the main feature of PPC's past, present and future policies, is the unceasing effort to strengthen national autonomy by developing for this purpose the domestic resources, i.e. the coalfields and the hydraulic potential.

In the above context, from a total dependence on oil imports for 1950, the power primaries today consist of 70% from lignite and waterfalls and only 30% from imported oil. Planned progressive utilization of domestic resources until 1986 will further diminish the oil-firing share to 19% by the end of the decade.

Yet an even greater cut of the oil share is anticipated for the decade 1980-1990 by maximizing the utilization of coalfields, waterfalls and possibly the available geothermal and natural gas resources. In parallel, nuclear power always remains a possible solution for the Greek power economy.

FINANCIAL DATA

The Public Power Corporation, as the sole producer, carrier and distributor of electrical energy in Greece, is today the country's largest technical and financial organization. When the PPC was instituted in 1950 it had been financed by the Greek state with a founding capital of \$125 million. In 1975, the PPC's total assets amounted to \$2,308 million while at the end of 1976 to \$2,452 million.

The PPC's net fixed assets in 1975 were valued at \$1,989 million, in 1976 totalled \$3,637 million KWH in 1976 totalled 15,023 million KWH and are expected to rise to 16,400 million KWH in 1977.

Revenues from the sale of electric current in 1975 were the equivalent of \$419 million, in 1976 were the equivalent of \$553 million.

THE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The PPC's investments in production, transmission and distribution works in 1976 totalled \$297 million and are expected to amount to \$312 million in 1977.

Similar investments during the next five year period from 1977 to 1981 are expected to exceed a total of \$3,000 million.

ENERGY PROJECTS WORTH \$460 MILLION

A good indication of the dynamic policies of the PPC is the fact that this organization—which now employs 28,000 salaried personnel—has launched one of the country's largest development projects worth \$460 million with the contracts signed in the space of three months, referred to above and concerning the new Ptolemais South Field lignite mine, the two new steam-electric units for the Kardis station and the Pournari hydroelectric project—all of which are to be completed by 1981.

Another example of the PPC's dynamic quality is its credit standing in the international capital market, not only in cases where the financing is linked to specific contracts with foreign firms supplying materials or equipment or with contractors executing large electrification works in Greece, but also in the free and direct financing of its investment programme. Thus, on October 12, 1976, an agreement was signed in London for a direct loan to the PPC of \$75 million to cover part of the expenses of its energy investment programme in 1976. This loan was made by a group of banks headed by the Bankers Trust Company.

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Better Times for Greek Farmers



In the fulfilment of its programme, O.G.A. in the current year is spending more than 12 billion drachmae. This is divided as follows:

- 7.3 billions for pensions
- 2.7 billions for medical treatment
- 2.0 billions for crop insurance

This is a quite significant expenditure when one considers that this sum represents about 10% of the total agricultural income. However, because O.G.A. is financed by funds drawn from mainly outside the agricultural sector, i.e. from general taxation, income tax, tax on luxury goods, etc., this means an income redistribution through O.G.A., a transfer of national income from well-off to less well-off, in other words to the agricultural population. Farmers do, however, pay a wholesale levy on their products but this levy does not exceed 15% of O.G.A.'s income.

O.G.A.'s administration structure is based on two principles. These are the total decentralisation of its activities and the use of large capacity computers, and the local state services (clerks of communities, magistrates, agronomists, etc.) are used by O.G.A. as its agents in provincial areas where they ensure that the organisation are helped on the spot without any difficulty. The central administration is in Athens and is responsible for general control and the checking of documentation sent in by the agents so in this way with low administration costs not exceeding 2% of its revenue, O.G.A. has managed by dint of its up to date organisation based on computerisation to succeed in insuring 3.6 million people, representing over 40% of the Greek population. Even today the difficulties in insuring all these people are great because of the widespread distribution of the farming community.

Within the frame of government policy, O.G.A.'s future prospects are very positive for:

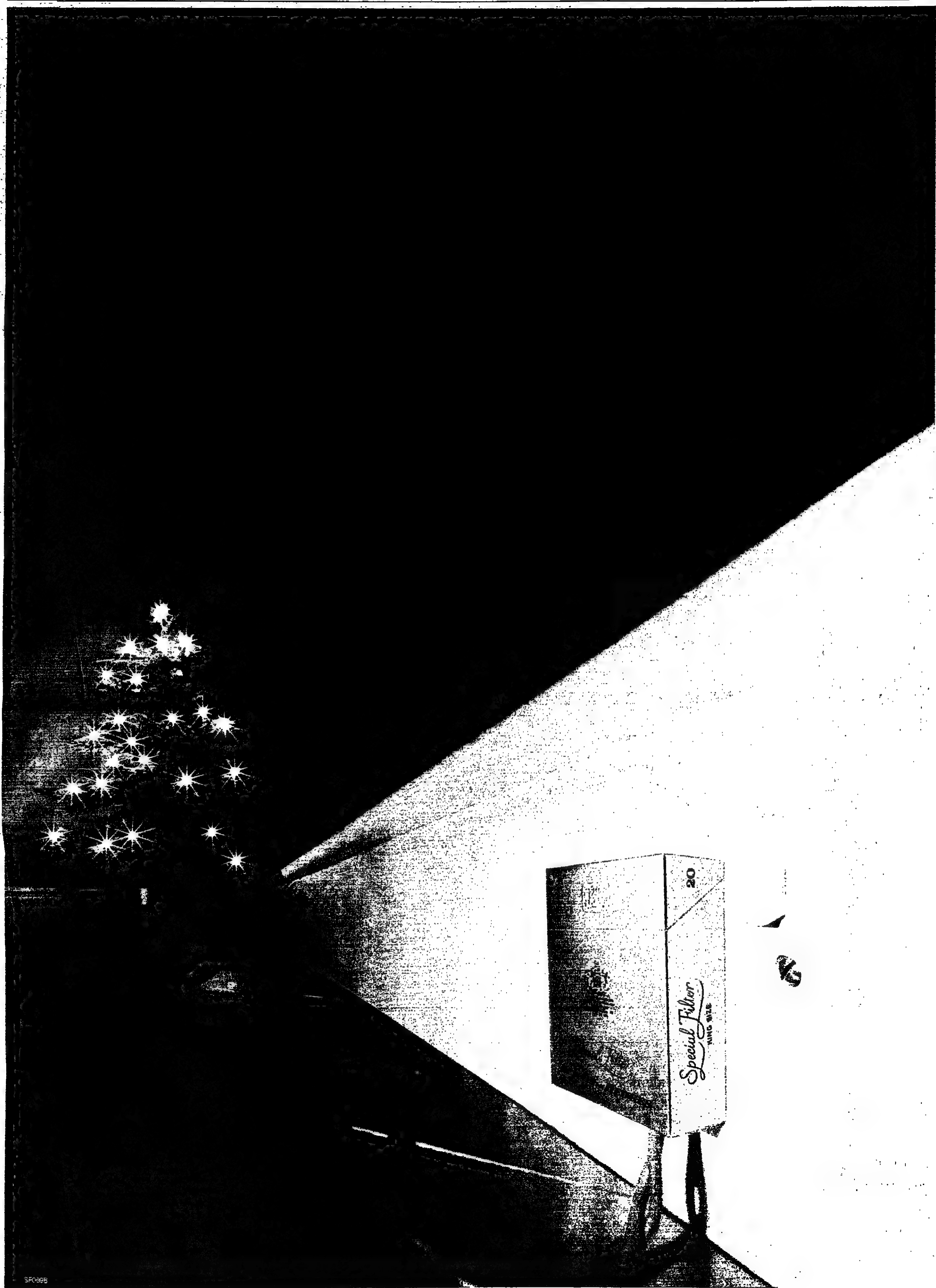
- (a) improvement and simplification of insurance procedure for dealing more quickly with insured members
- (b) increasing the values of pensions
- (c) improvement and integration of medical treatment, which is of paramount concern to the Greek Government. Some measures have already been announced, for example free drugs for chronic diseases, foundation of new medical stations in the provinces, and modernisation of those which already exist, with appropriate permanent staff and equipment
- (d) the improvement of crop insurance and other associated cover.

Now that Greece is applying for entry into the EEC, O.G.A. has begun to examine relevant problems and the necessary measures which will be required to be taken in time to coordinate the whole of this insurance scheme into the framework of the Common Market.

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THE TIMES

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H.M. Government Health Departments' **WARNING:**
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being used—as an excuse for political expressions and demonstrations of a creed. It was therefore thought that our recent programme attacked the fascists with Belsen and the other horrors of war. Joyce used the word "traitor" to indicate the cowardice of my husband's surgery in New North Road, and indicate the camp post from which "the Jew doctor" would be hanged—an irony of history, indeed. Bricks were thrown through the consulting room window, and patients were afraid to attend and the doctor had to make many more home visits. The local police, many of whom, with their families, were his patients, insisted on a rota to sleep in the surgery and escort him on night calls—not at his request. Are we not to use coloured doctors and midwives? Need police escort? Is this visit patients?

There were plenty of people ready then to brush all this aside as an aberration which would pass. We now know that happened because we lived through the results. But the younger people do not understand and must be told. Especially they need to know that the patriotic feelings of the National Front are not so easily spurious. Joyce's organization was called the *British Union of Fascists*. And how "British" were their activities in the hour of our country's total danger? It was not until after that they were more, and the few dealt with them at last.

They were the most anti-British element in our land. And their aims, the National Front, are totally un-British. They are against the patriotic and tolerant traditions and culture of our nation are concerned; this is no time nor place for tolerance.

Yours truly,
JOHN JECER, Chairman of the

to. It is no function of the Bar to invent a defence.

The English jury system has been based on the principle of random election of, as it was put, "the twelve men on the Clapham omnibus." I regard this "packing of the jury," as the judge or temporary barrister makes possible where several defendants are jointly charged, on grounds of race, religion, sex or supposed social or economic status as an abuse. Because of this, the Government has already had to restrict the right: if it continues to be abused, Parliament will again have to intervene.

I believe the Bar to be an honourable profession. In these days when, as I have said, more and less, those of the lay elements of the criminal bar—standards may seem to be slackening, I am sure that in their sphere the Criminal Bar Association will keep it that way and will agree with Lord Macaulay that it is "not altogether right to think that the head and a band round the neck should go for a guinea what with those appendages he would think it wicked and infamous to do for an Empire."

As for the statistics, the statistic "of about 80 per cent." simply to show that prosecutions are usually justified for that is the proportion of accused who actually plead guilty.

The statistics my critics should study, are the statistics of the proportion of convictions in 1977 as compared with 1967, for the proportions of those actually

The Chairman said that these could be the best of all possible worlds. He would like to look at the serious allegations made about the various criminal cases in the Bow Group's latest memoranda.

Theirs truly,
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,
 House of Lords.
 December 14.

In the Ashmolean Print Room there is absolutely no doubt but that this print was "premiere". It is now probably lost for ever to the nation and to the country.

The Visitors asked me to express their very grave concern to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Museums and Galleries and to say that my letter to him has been forwarded to the Select Committee of the House of Commons at present considering this problem in relation to the Landmark Fund. It is a problem that bears not only on the Ashmolean; we hear that a comparable deprivation has been suffered by the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge. The fact is that the Standing Committee might appoint a panel of expert advisers to report back to them through the Government, and it seems to offer a much better home for the collection, and such subsequent allocation of works of art as might be in lieu of death duty.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RICHARDS,
 Director General,
 University Offices,
 Wellington Square,
 Oxford 12.

are the Order and the other until the final procedural stage in the Lords on that date.

BOUGHTON OF SOWERBY,
Chairman,
League Against Cruel Sports,
Reform Row, N17.
December 13.

Heavy breathing

from Air Marshal M. Nisholls

Time. Timing myself up to the sixth floor this morning (34.5 seconds) it occurred to me that some of your readers might think that the reason why Frank Cooper cannot find an Admiral to place is that they all start to go much later than the rest of us.

But that would be unkind. The truth is that most of them sleep in.

JOHN NICHOLLS,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall, SW1.
December 13.

Law Report December 14 1977

Acas' inability to question stay-at-work employees renders report void

Grumwick Processing Laboratories Ltd v Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and Others

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Salmon, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton and Lord Keith of Kinkaid

The House of Lords held that a report by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) in March, 1977, recommending that Grumwick Processing Laboratories Ltd, of Willesden, London, should recognize a particular trade union for the purposes of collective bargaining, should be declared void because the recommendation was made without Acas first ascertaining the opinions of about two-thirds of the work force at Grumwick which had continued to work throughout the industrial troubles. Their Lordships held that on the proper construction of section 14(1) of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, Acas was under a mandatory duty to ascertain the opinions of those still at work in spite of the uncooperative conduct of the employees.

The House dismissed an appeal by Acas from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Browne and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane) (*The Times*, July 30), which on an appeal by Grumwick from Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice

(*The Times*, July 13) had held void the Acas recommendation that Grumwick should recognize the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) for the purpose of collective bargaining on behalf of the Grumwick work force.

Section 12(1) of the Employment Protection Act provides: "(1) ... when a recognition issue is referred to the Service [Acas] is referred to the Service [Acas] the Service shall examine the issue, shall consult all parties who it considers will be affected by the outcome of the reference and shall make such inquiries as it thinks fit."

Section 14(1) provides: "In the course of its inquiries into a recognition issue under section 12 ... the Service shall ascertain the opinions of workers to whom the issue relates by any means it thinks fit, but if in any case it determines to take a formal ballot of those workers or any description of such workers, the following provisions of this section shall apply."

Mr Dennis Henry, QC, Mr Peter Scott and Mr Peter Goldsmith for Acas; Mr Mervyn Heald, QC, Mr Stuart McKinnon and Mr George Newman for Grumwick.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the appeal was concerned with one facet of an industrial dispute which had degenerated a good deal of political heat and unfortunately still continued to do. That facet did not involve their Lordships forming, let alone expressing, any views as to the merits or conduct

of either Grumwick or Apex. All that fell to be decided was a naked question of law, the true construction of sections 11 to 16 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, which dealt with the recognition of trade unions by employers for the purpose of collective bargaining, and in particular on the meaning of section 14(1).

Acas was a statutory body set up under section 1 of the Act charged with the general duty of promoting the improvement of industrial relations and "in particular of encouraging the extension of collective bargaining". Its members were appointed by the Secretary of State, in practice because of their experience of industrial relations; and they included representatives of both employers and trade unions.

Schedule 1, paragraph 11 expressly provided that Acas should not be subject to any direction of any kind from any minister of the Crown as to the manner in which it was to exercise any of its functions. It was thus a body that was properly to be described as independent as well as expert in industrial relations.

Grumwick's business was processing colour photographs for customers. Its work force was largely composed of immigrants of Asian descent from Uganda, but a considerable number of students were engaged temporarily during the summer vacation, which coincided with the business period.

On August 23, 1976 a student was dismissed for disciplinary reasons. Other workers walked out in sympathy and by the end of the month there were 31 members of

the regular work force on strike, as well as 46 students. Many of those on strike joined Apex which approached Grumwick with a request to negotiate on their behalf. Grumwick declined, and after some violence on the part of some of the strikers, Grumwick, on September 2, dismissed them all.

On October 15 Apex referred to Acas under section 11 a "recognition issue"—whether Apex ought to be recognized by Grumwick as representing all its weekly paid workers (including those dismissed on September 2 who wanted to be reemployed) for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Acas's duty was laid down by section 12(1). It involved a threefold process: (1) examination; (2) consultation; and (3) inquiry; but under (3) the subsection imposed no requirement as to the scope or the nature of the inquiries which Acas must undertake or the manner of conducting them. The apparently unfettered discretion was, however, curtailed by section 14. Section 14(1) made it plain that the workers to whom the issue related were not to be the subjects of "consultation" under section 12(1): they were the subjects of "inquiries" to be made under that subsection.

To carry out its duties under section 14(1) of ascertaining the opinions of workers to whom the recognition issue related, Acas proposed to address a questionnaire to them. For that purpose Acas sought to obtain the names and addresses of all Grumwick's weekly paid employees, including those dismissed on September 2 and

available for reemployment, as well as those still at work. Apex gave the names and addresses of all the workers who had joined that union, 110 in number but consisting almost entirely of those who had been dismissed.

Acas asked Grumwick for the names and addresses of all the workers still on its payroll. Grumwick, however, was contending that former employees who had been dismissed should not receive the questionnaire; Acas contended that claim, and, pending the resolution of the controversy, Grumwick was unwilling to supply Acas with names and addresses.

The Act imposed no time limit on the duration of the process of examination, consultation and inquiry into a recognition issue by Acas. It was exhorted by section 12(3) to encourage settlement of disputes by agreement; but if that failed, a duty was imposed by section 12(4) to "prepare a written report setting out its findings, any advice in connection with those findings and any recommendation for recognition and the reasons for it, or, where no such recommendation is made, the reasons for not making any recommendation."

Acas was of opinion that by the end of December the situation, which had already given rise to violence and disturbance at the picket line, called for an early report, lest it might deteriorate still further. So on December 29 it distributed a questionnaire to those workers, the great majority of whom had been dismissed. The questionnaire was not distributed to Grumwick's payroll (apart from

a mere handful). Although they numbered between 225 and 250, their views were never ascertained. From the 110 which the questionnaire 92 replies were received; all were from the members of Apex, and that they wanted Apex to negotiate with their employer about their pay and conditions of employment.

Equipped with that information on the opinions of one-third of the workers to whom the issue related, Acas, on March 10, 1977, recommended the recognition of Apex by Grumwick for the purpose of collective bargaining. Its report expressed regret at its inability to ascertain the opinions of the other two-thirds of the workers, stating: "We had no access to the names and addresses, nor any other suitable means of access, to the remaining workers still working in the company, and so their opinions could not be ascertained" (paragraph 22).

In April Grumwick began an action against Acas and Apex for a declaration that the report was ultra vires and void, the principal ground being that Acas should have ascertained or have regard to the opinions of the employees who had been dismissed but were seeking reemployment, as they were not "workers" to whom the issue related. That ground of invalidity had been rejected by the Lord Justice of Appeal, and the majority of the Court of Appeal for reasons which his Lordship found convincing.

For the purposes of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, section 30(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, defined worker as "an individual employed in whatever capacity in the following capacities is applicable to him, that is to say, as a person who works or normally works or seeks to work under a contract of employment."

It was enough to consider the words his Lordship had italicized in the definition. It would add that a group of employees who had been dismissed for going on strike were among the most likely to need the services of a union to organize their reemployment and that that would obviously have been one of the first matters Apex would want to raise with Grumwick.

The defect in what Acas did—which all three members of the Court of Appeal held to be ultra vires—was that it failed to ascertain the opinions of more than 200 weekly paid workers still employed by Grumwick. That had not been raised by Grumwick until its reply; but after considerable argument his Lordship thought the appeal could be disposed of on the basis of Acas's finding in paragraph 22.

The Lord Chief Justice had held, in the sections 12(1) and 14(1) of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, that Acas's appeal all three members of the Court of Appeal rejected and held that the provisions were mandatory and also that the obligation imposed on Acas was to ascertain the opinions of the "workers to whom the issue relates".

His Lordship agreed with the Court of Appeal that the requirement in section 14(1) that Acas "shall ascertain the opinions of workers to whom the issue relates" was mandatory. He could not accept the Lord Chief Justice's qualification that the obligation was "so far as reasonably practicable". Prima facie the decision, which was one which the public authority by whom the statutory functions were exercised would have jurisdiction to decide for itself and a court of justice would not have jurisdiction to interfere with its decision except on the third ground stated by Lord Goff in the *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223, 229, in which he set out the ground on which the court could hold to be ultra vires and void a decision of an administrative body made in purported exercise of a statutory power which a statute had conferred on it.

What did the express words mean? His Lordship thought that on their true construction the words used in section 14(1), when read in the context of the remaining subsections and of section 12, made manifest a statutory intention that before making a recommendation under section 12(4) Acas should ascertain the opinions of a particular trade union for the purpose of collective bargaining on behalf of the work force of a particular employer. Acas should ascertain and take into consideration the opinions on that issue of the work force as a whole; and where there was a reasonable possibility of conflict of opinion Acas should ascertain and take into consideration the views of every group of workers of any significant size that formed part of the work force, which would be affected by the recommendation.

His Lordship thought the omission of the definite article before "workers" was deliberate. In order to make it clear, on the one hand, that minority views were not to be excluded from Acas's consideration, and on the other, that an omission to ascertain the opinion of each and every one of the workers would not be fatal to the validity of any recommendation it might make. His Lordship found support for that in the immediately following terms making provision for a formal ballot. As in the case of other means of ascertaining the opinions of workers, Acas was given by section 14(4) a wide discretion as to the manner in which a formal ballot might be conducted.

The illegality in the procedure adopted by Acas, if it amounted to an illegality, did not lie in its issuing the questionnaire to the workers whose names and addresses it had obtained, but in its admitted failure to ascertain by any means at all the opinions of a two-thirds majority of workers to whom the issue related. His Lordship did not want to say anything which might limit the discretion of Acas as to the means it should adopt to ascertain the opinions of workers.

It was for Acas, not the court, to decide the most convenient way of carrying out that duty—whether by ballot, meetings, interviews with spokesmen whom Acas considered representative of the work force as a whole or of particular groups within the work force, or by any other means. His Lordship was not to say anything which might limit the discretion of Acas as to the means it should adopt to ascertain the opinions of workers.

It was also for Acas, not the court, to decide what weight to give to the opinions of workers in its consideration of what recommendation for recognition, if any, should be made in its report. It was Acas's proper duty under the Act to make such recommendation as it thought best; but it was not entitled to make any recommendation for recognition if it remained in ignorance of the opinions of the majority of the work force or of what might be a conflicting view, held by a sizeable group of workers, which could sympathize with Acas

in the dilemma in which it found itself at the close of 1976. An early report was, in its judgment, necessary if the growing violence engendered by the dispute was to be quelled; but it was confronted with difficulties in canvassing the opinions of those workers still employed at Grumwick. It did not feel justified in inferring from their conduct in continuing to run the mill and the picketing over the previous four months that the opinions of most of them were adverse to being represented in collective bargaining by Apex, which had made the strike official, sanctioned the picketers, and sought the assistance of the Union of Post Office Workers, to make it impossible for Grumwick to continue to carry on providing them with work.

If Acas had thought fit to draw that inference but had nevertheless recommended Apex for recognition, despite the adverse opinion of the majority of workers to whom the recognition issue related, and had given the reasons for such recommendation, it might be that the House of Lords would have no jurisdiction to interfere by such recommendation would be within the wide discretion conferred on it by the Act.

But Acas, with its great experience of industrial relations, did not think it right to draw that inference. Its report stated that it had been unable to ascertain the opinions of two-thirds of the workers. So it could not have taken them into consideration in making its recommendation for the recognition of Apex.

Confronted by that difficulty Acas had two courses lawfully open to it. There was no statutory time limit within which it must report, and it could have deferred reporting until it had devised some other means of ascertaining the opinions of those workers whose names and addresses Grumwick was unwilling to provide. Or it could have issued a report under section 12(4) setting out its finding that it was unable to ascertain the opinions of the majority of workers and for that reason was debarred from making any recommendation.

Acas's final argument was that even if the court were of opinion that the recommendation was ultra vires, it should nevertheless refuse to make a declaration to that effect because Acas's inability to comply with the mandatory requirements of the Act was due to Grumwick's own conduct in refusing to cooperate.

Where a statutory authority had acted ultra vires any person who was affected by its act could sue for damages. But if the act was validly made normally entitled an *ex debito justitiae* to have it set aside if he proceeded by way of writ or to have it declared void in an action for a declaration. The court might exercise its discretion to refuse to grant such relief if it was satisfied that the authority was induced by the unlawful acts of the complainant himself.

Grumwick, however, had done nothing unlawful. It was under no legal obligation to cooperate with Acas in its consultations or inquiries in a recognition issue, however sensible it might be to do so. The only legal obligation on the employer was confined, in section 14(6), to supplying the results of a formal ballot to his employees who were invited by Acas to take part in it. Apart from that, he might co-operate with Acas as much or as little as he himself considered to be expedient. If he was to be compelled to do more than that, an amendment to the Act would be needed.

Moreover, in the instant case, the remedy which Acas sought was not aimed at an important interest in the validity of the recommendations themselves. It was aimed at securing the results of a formal ballot to his employees who were invited by Acas to take part in it. Apart from that, he might co-operate with Acas as much or as little as he himself considered to be expedient. If he was to be compelled to do more than that, an amendment to the Act would be needed.

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LORD SALMON, concurring, said that between October and December 1976, Acas was in constant touch with Grumwick seeking by way of reconciliation to heal the breach between Apex and the strikers on the one hand and Grumwick and those still at work on the other. That must have been an uphill task, for it could not be supposed that Apex or the strikers represented had endeared themselves to Grumwick or the 200 or more workers still in its employment by organizing the large number of pickets, which, though not comparable in numbers with the hordes of pickets later recruited in June and July 1977, had managed since the end of August, 1976, to make the lives of the workers on their way to and from work most unpleasant by abusive and sometimes violent behaviour.

Moreover, it was Apex which had successfully sought the help of the UPW to attempt to bludgeon Grumwick into submission by refusing to handle any of their mail. To cut them off from the post was, as Mr Ward, Grumwick's managing director, had put it, equivalent to cutting their lifeline. Had the postal blocking continued, Grumwick would have been put out of business and their workers would have lost their livelihood. Not surprisingly, those workers were completely opposed to the reinstatement of the strikers who had been harassing them.

It must be exceptional for Acas to be unable to ascertain the opinions of two-thirds of workers to whom a recognition dispute related, however uncooperative the employers might be. But if a large majority of the work force objected to Apex, the Lordship could not imagine that Acas would even contemplate proposing any trade union on their behalf; nor would it be entitled to do so under any provision of the Act. Democracy gave one a free choice to decide by whom one wanted to be represented.

His Lordship considered that in the unlikely event of Acas making a recommendation contrary to the genuine opinions of a large majority of the work force concerned, the courts would have power, indeed the duty, to declare the recommendation ultra vires and void. If, however, Acas had reasonable grounds for believing that the opinions expressed by the workers were not their genuine opinions but opinions improperly induced by pressure from one side or the other, Acas would have the power to ignore them and, when giving the reasons for its decision, state the grounds for its conclusion that the opinions of the majority had been improperly induced.

Lord Edmund-Davies and Lord Fraser concurred with the speech of Lord Diplock. Lord Keith delivered a speech concurring in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Trower, Stoll & Keeling.

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He emerges from prison and labour camp optimistic to an extent about the future and his children. To me he seems to become invigorated by religion rather than politics but Mrs Wright is circumspect on his growing inner strength. In a

and destroys is covered by the boy, though Baxter's inhuman responsibility doesn't go as far as the boy's thrills in domination, violence and reducing others to targets. Indifference around them makes them more fiendish, but this story is a work of art that shows the well-used power of

anon Whitechurch's 1912 collection to which has been added a scholarly and warm foreword by Bryan Morgan and from which have not been subtracted advertisements for App's Cocoa, "Antipon for the permanent suppression of flatness" and a couple of dozen more. Whitechurch's hero, Thorpe Hazell, alas, is not so

ing an incognito cruise in a cargo carrier with a mystery in her past and skulduggery dead ahead. Some of the subsidiary characters are a little black and white and events finally set plainly out of hand but the unevenness and the rootedness of sea life amply compensate. Sherlock Holmes was the

perfect alibi, yet a suspect. This professor's story is innumerable, but it is also ringingly true, unexaggerated and right. **Printing:** London and Chicago.

The Day of the Peppercorn Mill, by John Wainwright

Ring of Roses, by Christina Brand (W. H. Allen, 1955). Not what we have been expecting for since 1955 but a pseudonymous paperback printed, a glossy about a TV star. Yet splendid moments.

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The tyrannical Hen

Doing 'Tre' down

Derek Parker

Crime with references to the value of the plasmon biscuit and Swedish exercises which have no discernible effect on the tribute to Conan Doyle's vision that Holmes books regularly appear from imitators even today, Robert Lee Hall adds a

Crime

whole. But the stories are a puzzler's challenge.

The railways were particularly fitted of a certain stories. I think because of the very fundamental contrast between their ordained times and tracks and the schemes of criminals to set them astray they reflect an ordered universe and thus dispel the suspicions of the spirit of evil.

Crime on the high seas does not have quite the same weight-giving implicit symbolism, so when a crime story is set on board and the writer shies at his own crime, the tremendous satisfaction to be got. George Gissing certainly has this primary qualification and he has created a charming central character, too, in his great mercurial captain, Captain Inconnito, cruise in a cargo carrier with a mystery in her past and sloughery dead ahead. Some of the subsidiary characters are a little black and white and events finally get plainly out of balance as the inevitable sea routelessness of sea life amply compensate.

Shenlock Holmes was the epitome and prime mover of the puzzle story and it is a quick whiff of the Edwardian theatre and a substantial dusting in science fiction to the customers of the London fog and raining bastards as he plot the intricate works well, though he lets too much temporary clutter get in the way of his story.

There are stories in the newest collection of *Winter's Crimes* originals matches up to that higher standard. But there are some that would well repay 20 minutes' lightning off cushions in Clarendon Square.

There is a story of a night, James McClure's set among children, Margaret Yorke's foreign holiday fantasy and P. B. Yoniff's Londoners' story. The last are particularly recommended.

Murders Anonymous, by Elizabeth Ferrars (Cottins, £3.25). A perfect abill, yet a suspect.

The professor's story is ingenious, but the right is true, unexaggerated and right. Setting: London and cliff-edge.

The Day of the Peppercorn Kill, by John Wainwright (Macmillan, £3.50). What the released prisoner did. An

Endangered species

As the Birdman of Scottish radio, Henry Douglas-Home once persuaded the BBC to send all its precious sound equipment to The Hirsels, the family home near Coldstream in Berwickshire, in an attempt to capture on disc the hoot of a tawny owl. The result was a triumphant success and the recording rapidly became one of the most prized in the BBC's archives. It was not until several years later that his younger brother, William

Apparently, Mama used to insist that on train journeys the boys wore three sheets of *The Times* wrapped next to their skin, maintaining that if they did not wear newspaper they were bound to be on the list of the most endangered species. It almost makes one feel that a society should now be formed to protect that most highly endangered species—the British land gent.

The Hirsch estate forms a natural sanctuary with a hundred species nesting there and a great number of visitors as well. It is the countryman's paradise, especially in spring. He is particularly aroused on game-birds and regards birdwatching as a peaceful offspring of shooting. Hiding in impenetrable thickets waiting for pigeons at the length of a snowing winter afternoon teaches you more than any book."

There is so much interest and sincerity in this book and the expert's suggestions may be occasionally over-given—as when he says: "When the breeding season is over most of our shelduck reserve for a brief stay in Holland, no one quite 'knows' knowledge that most of the student British birds fly off to the Heilgeland. Might for their annual moult, as they are safe during their flightless period?" Harder to condone or indeed understand is his statement: "Caging a bird is not cruel. As long as it is, the regular food."

swarm and is living in a warm enough temperature it will be happy, more or less regardless of the size of its cage or aviary." William Blake, director, said he was turning in his resignation.

Henry Douglas-Horne is concerned, as all of us are, about the annual mass slaughter of songbirds in Europe and North Africa. In Italy alone each autumn it is estimated that three hundred million are massacred. On my recent world tour, I was shocked and surprised that no one I interviewed the ship, even across the Pacific. Can they have known she was flying the Italian flag?

[illegible]

L. P. Hartley

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
Afore ye go

[illegible]

Total of 318 industrial and agricultural imports will benefit from April in 8-point package Japan to cut tariffs by average of 23pc

By Caroline Atkinson

The Japanese government today announced details of tariff cuts on a range of industrial and agricultural goods. The cuts, which will be implemented from April 1, amount to an average 23 per cent reduction on a total of 318 items.

The present 6.4 per cent tariff on imported cars will be abolished, the 13.5 per cent tariff on computers cut to 10.5 per cent and the tariff on colour film cut from 16 per cent to 11 per cent. Together with a rise in quotas on some agricultural goods, these cuts are part of the eight-point package which the Japanese trade negotiators took to Washington this week.

As expected the extent of the reductions is quite limited, and will not go very far to help foreigners to penetrate Japanese markets.

Even the Japanese recognize that a much wider range of tariff cuts and a liberalization of agricultural imports would be required to satisfy their trading partners.

Strong opposition within Japan to any significant easing of import restrictions has limited the action which can be taken by Mr Fukuda the Prime Minister.

The pressure from America and Europe, and in particular its manifestation in terms of a higher yen may strengthen the hand of the Japanese government against domestic business and agriculture.

The major block to increased imports in Japan is its inefficient distribution system. Large mark ups on foreign goods make them uncompetitive. The sharp rise in the yen in the last few months is now having an effect on export profits and growth. In fact exports have been moving sideways rather than upwards recently.

With a floating exchange rate the Japanese are discovering that it is not possible for exports and imports to grow at very different rates. The problem which has not been solved is how to boost the home economy and bring in more imports.

The Japanese are still extremely reluctant to allow manufactured imports to penetrate home markets. They are more likely to provide stockpiling raw materials to close their payments gap. The tariff cuts tend to be on goods where the Japanese believe they can fight off foreign competition.

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At the urging of Mr Calaghan, who expressed concern about the destabilizing and deflationary effect on the world economy of the Japanese trade surplus, heads of government at their summit meeting there last week asked the Commission to 'intensify' its consultations with the Tokyo government.

It is estimated that the EEC will have a deficit in trade with Japan this year of \$5,000m (about £27m) compared with \$4,200m last year.

During three days of meetings here, writes David Gross from Washington, senior Japanese and American officials have agreed that the growing trade imbalance in favour of Tokyo is an embarrassment to both sides, but are divided on the measures needed to remedy the situation.

Mr Gross has no further than an offer of improved tariff and quota arrangements and promises to stimulate the Japanese economy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

25pc surrender rule — a misconception

From Mr P. G. B. Wills

Sir, Your readers have not over recent weeks, suffered from a shortage of Lord Balogh's views on exchange controls, and now Lord Kaldor has added his weight to the arguments against relaxation. Unfortunately, they both appear to suffer from a basic misconception on the subject of the 25 per cent surrender rule, and I am sure they would not wish this elementary fallacy to call into question the credibility of their main argument.

The debate on exchange controls and on the 25 per cent surrender rule are on two completely different topics and not, as they appear to assume, on two separate aspects of the same subject. The discussion on whether the relaxation of exchange controls and any consequent increase of investment overseas, is good or bad for employment and the economy, is a matter of macro-economic policy which can best be debated by cleverer folk than me. The 25 per cent surrender rule, on the other hand, is nothing to do with this erudite debate; it is a matter of simple book-keeping, and of great importance, for it is actually making money for the country, and not simply to theorize about it.

The 25 per cent surrender is only a transfer from the proceeds of the sale of foreign currency securities to the official reserves, in other words, from one type of United Kingdom external asset to another. If their lordships doubt this proposition, then they might usefully see how long it takes them to discover the single reference to the surrender in the CSO publication *United Kingdom balance of payments, 1966-76*. For the purpose of boosting the reserves it was, when it was necessary, a credible emergency measure to reassure people. In the long run, however, it is counter-productive for obvious reasons.

In the first place, because it is levied on sales of securities, it can be avoided with absolute simplicity by investors retaining their securities rather than

selling them. As a consequence, investment managers are neither maximizing their income from interest and dividends, nor are they maximizing the capital value of their investments. One curious effect of the surrender, therefore, is that those who might wish to sell foreign currency securities and reinvest the proceeds in the United Kingdom are dissuaded from so doing by government action.

These and other ill effects of the surrender have been well rehearsed publicly in recent months, and indeed have been broadly accepted by the Government. None the less, no action has been taken largely because of the misconception, mentioned earlier, that the abolition of the surrender would result in an outflow of capital from the United Kingdom.

Capital transfers are governed by the exchange control regulations. These provide that portfolio investments can only be undertaken with investment currency, which must be purchased from a "pool" arising largely from the sales of other foreign currency securities. The 25 per cent surrender subtracts from this "pool", but its abolition would not add to it (except insofar as there would be a negative subtraction), nor would one pennyworth of sterling be diverted into overseas investment.

The fact is that the 25 per cent surrender is no longer needed to window dress the United Kingdom official reserves, and the call for its abolition is nothing to do with the debate about the relaxation of exchange controls. This simple fact appears to be a mystery not only to eminent economists but to the Government and the Treasury as well. Those concerned with the simple day to day management of business might well be excused some exasperation at the apparent ignorance of those in command of our macro-economic destiny.

Yours faithfully,

P. G. B. WILLS,

Council Room,

The Stock Exchange,

London EC2N 1BP.

December 12.

An air pollution smoke-screen?

From Professor D. Bryce-Smith
Sir, Only the naive will be reassured by the rather defensive claim (Letters, December 7) from Dr Chester, Director of the CEEB's Research Laboratories, that the CEEB has a lot of people working on the environmental effects of the air pollution to which the CEEB is such

a major contributor. His letter fails to mention whether the CEEB is actually doing anything to prevent the emissions of sulphur dioxide, etc from the CEEB's chimneys. Can Dr Chester provide us with any evidence that the CEEB is not up to the classical ploy of using a flurry of research into effects

EEC code for companies in South Africa

From the Secretary of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and others.
Sir, The code of practice for British companies operating in South Africa is about to be replaced by a new EEC code of conduct, and a greater emphasis will be placed on industrial relations, and on other aspects of employment practices such as job advancement.

Recently the Department of Trade admitted that they have been unable to make an accurate assessment of the effectiveness of the present code because companies have not supplied them with enough information. May we therefore make a strong plea that the British Government in implementing the new code, ensure that the companies concerned provide detailed reports which will make possible an effective assessment of their operations in South Africa. If this is not done, what point is there in introducing a new code?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK R. FARROW (Rev.),
1 Central Buildings,
London SW1H 9NP;
R. BERSFORD,
General Secretary,
Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace;
L. R. PALMER,
Treasurer,
United Reformed Church;
C. E. SWORN,
Financial Secretary,
United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel,
December 8.

Honorable mechanic

From Dr F. Llewellyn Smith
Sir, Mr Brookman (December 8) might like to know that Sir Henry Royce always referred to himself as a mechanic. He claimed that this was a more honourable description than "engineer" but of course in view of his lack of qualifications, it might have been a case of sour grapes.

Yours faithfully,
DR F. LLEWELLYN SMITH,
4 Regent Close,
Reigate,
Surrey RH2 0EU.
December 8.

Union urges capital reconstruction to cut British Steel loss

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

A call to the Government to undertake a capital reconstruction of the financially-troubled state steel industry was made yesterday by the Transport and General Workers Union which pledged "total opposition" to enforced redundancies.

The TGWU, which has about 20,000 members in heavy steel, galvanizing, pipe, construction and in white-collar grades, also insisted on a campaign to slash steel imports.

Transport union shop stewards and officials meeting in London drew up a 6-point programme which is designed

to be organized labour's contribution to the argument on how the industry should cut its huge losses, now running at around £500m a year.

A key item is that "the Government should act to improve the financial position of the BSC by reducing the debt burden". Union leaders say that interest payments are running at £12m a year and should be cut substantially.

British Steel has rejected this argument on the grounds that it would provoke retaliation in export markets—particularly the United States—where it would be seen as a Government subsidy.

Bonn aid for Saarland Steel

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Dec 14

The West German Government is prepared to provide financial assistance to help in the restructuring of the steel industry in the Saarland, Otto Gram-Lambert, the economic minister, said today. But he made clear that any assistance would be conditional on the companies in the Saar producing a realistic concept for their new structure.

At present negotiations are under way to group the Saar steel works with the Arbed con-

cern of Luxembourg. It has been estimated that investments of between DM700m (£175m) and DM800m will be needed to streamline the Saar steel industry and it appears that Bonn would be prepared to support the effort through giving guarantees and subsidizing interest rates.

Despite the gravity of the crisis in the German steel industry, the Cabinet concluded that it has a future in the medium to long-term. It agreed that a "beggar my neighbour" policy of subsidies in Europe was not the way to solve the industry's problems.

Appeal finds for Crown Agents

An allegation that the Crown Agents agreed to postpone indefinitely repayment of a £2,540,000 loan to a property company was rejected by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court had been told that the loan to Murrayfields Securities had been agreed in December, 1973. The company discovered that it was between £700,000 and £800,000 more than was needed.

The Crown Agents refused to accept immediate repayment of the excess, but it was alleged, they orally agreed not to enforce covenants for the repayment of the principal or interest on the loan before the mortgaged properties had been sold.

The existence of the oral agreement was alleged by Mr Philip Frederick and Mr Hyman Solomon, of Rebeck House, Palace Street, Westminster, and 53-57 Baker Street (Investments), of Holborn Viaduct, London, who were solicitors for the loan.

In the High Court last May, Sir Robert Megarry, the Vice-Chancellor, gave judgment against the agents.

The Appeal Court dismissed an appeal by Mr Frederick and Mr Solomon, but allowed an appeal by 53-57 Baker Street (Investments).

The effect of the Appeal Court's ruling is that Mr Frederick and Mr Solomon are liable for the full amount of the loan which, with interest, now amounts to £3,574,889.

Foreign profits from N Sea expected to cut invisibles surplus

By Our Economics Staff

Britain's invisible payments surplus, which was £2,344m last year, has probably passed its peak because the drain of foreign profits made in the North Sea will build up substantially in coming years.

An analysis of Britain's invisible trade in the last 20 years is published in a special article in the Bank of England bulletin.

It shows how the proportion of invisibles in Britain's total overseas earnings is much higher than in most other countries, although only slightly higher than in America.

Since 1973, however, the growth of gross earnings from invisibles has not been as fast as that from exports of goods, although the net surplus has continued to grow.

Invisible trade consists of a mixed bag of items ranging from the financial services of the City, tourist earnings, and other services to the interest, profits and dividends (IPD) on foreign-owned assets, and transfers of capital such as government aid payments and remittances sent home by foreign workers.

The services element has been most buoyant in recent years although in real terms it seems that the growth in earn-

ings was considerably less between 1972 and 1976 than in the previous six years.

The composition of the IPD account has changed in the last few years. Public sector payments on their overseas debt have built up significantly.

Distribution of national debt

An article on the distribution of national debt shows that the bulk of the £10,500m rise in the year to March 1977 was in market, or non-official, holdings of debt. These increased by £9,700m.

The proportion held in gilt-edged stock increased from 66.5 per cent of non-market debt to 68.7 per cent. The total nominal outstanding national debt was £67,976m.

Oil exporters' surplus funds dwindle

The surplus funds of the oil exporters have dwindled steadily throughout this year from an estimated £11,000m in the first quarter to £8,000m in the third quarter.

Despite the weakness of the dollar the oil exporters appear to have invested a slightly higher proportion of their surplus in the United States in the third quarter. Much of this was in long-term investment.

Trafalgar House

Hotel Bristol

Hotel Trollope & Colls

Cementation

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The spending spree at Trafalgar

Trafalgar House has more than lived up to expectations. Profits for the year to September are 38 per cent higher at £45.4m with shipping, aviation and hotels nearly doubling their contribution, but the shares at 144p are not on a rating for a growth stock, despite the fact that profits have trebled since 1972 and earnings per share have more than doubled. The yield of 5.4 per cent and p/e ratio of eight, is in fact, very close to the market average. There is a case, to be made, therefore, that the price has not kept pace with events.

Opinion, however, is divided. An investment in Trafalgar House now is seen as a question of faith. Either the management can invest the cash flow which is flooding in profitably, or the growth will slow down leaving the group as a disparate mixture of diversified areas with no clear linking industrial logic.

Its past record on acquisitions is good. Cunard is held up as the best example of its flair. Criticism of that acquisition was as strong as it has been of the acquisition of Beaverbrook, and yet it has proved a strong earner.

Trafalgar supporters believe it can do the same in newspapers and publishing. Its detractors say that there was considerable good fortune in the success of Cunard and that Beaverbrook and publishing are very different propositions. But the scale of the new investment needs putting into perspective. So far Trafalgar's investment in Beaverbrook is limited to the £14m purchase figure. The risk in the context of a group which spent £85m on fixed assets last year and still has reduced borrowings (down to around £200m at the year end) is not substantial. But whether the gains are potentially substantial is a different matter.

The group is determined to invest its cash flow. If it stayed still it would start paying main stream corporation tax by 1981. Tax management though is not a reason on its own for substantial spending. The alternative would be to build-up the cash balances as has been done by GEC and look for a way of increasing the return to shareholders. Although the dividend was increased by 90 per cent with the rights issue it is now covered 3½ times by earnings and could stand to be substantially increased.

Growth by acquisition may allow the real return to grow faster. But organic growth for the current year looks assured, and so does the prospect of further acquisitions.

Property revenues are now coming through quite strongly and all sides of the contracting division, except for the specialist piling companies, did better last year. Housebuilding at last looks to be improving.

Guinness

The question of earnings quality

Marking Arthur Guinness shares down about 10p to 184p after virtually static full year pre-tax profits of £39.5m were revealed, the stock market seems to have over-reacted; it is true that Guinness is becoming more difficult to assess. About 25 per cent of profits now come from non-brewing activities, and if adjustment is made for interest in investment borrowings, the bulk of which went into overseas brewing, the contribution is higher still.

Guinness has become a kind of mini-omnium. It embraces five sectors other than brewing, and one of them, general trading, almost doubled its profits to £6.3m, whereas turnover makes up 24 per cent of the £498m total, with Ireland adding another 40 per cent. On the brewing side, it is the overseas markets—West Africa and South East Asia—which provide the growth. It is worth stressing that Guinness is the only Irish distillery to have successfully moved its production outside its home base.

The decline in brewing profits to £29.2m is attributed to especially poor results in Ireland, and price control and lower consumer spending in both Ireland and Britain. In fact, the alcoholic drinks sector as a whole is the only one in which real spending has risen over the last year, but Guinness has suffered from being a relatively expensive product, and from a longer-term change in fashion reflected in its market share falling for several years.

The market's uncertainty centres on the quality of Guinness's earnings. The Nigerian operation, in which about £7m is currently being invested, has defied the critics and profits are continuing to rise. But it suffers

from high inflation and arbitrary price control, and there is always the fear of expropriation lurking in the background. The logic of acquiring the other companies in manufacturing, trading and retailing is not immediately obvious: eyebrows were raised at the announcement of a 51 per cent stake in DG Leisure Centres.

At about 5.9 per cent the yield is above average for brewers, and the shares are selling at about nine times earnings. On the assumption of much better consumer spending next year, some analysts are even forecasting £50m profits. But the doubts about the quality of earnings and the corporate strategy mean that investors might feel safer with a more generous yield margin over the sector average.

Gilts

The Bank calls for restraint

The threat to the Lib/Lab pact and talk of a November trade deficit had lopped 9.7 points off the FT index by midday yesterday. But the mid-afternoon news of a £218m November surplus quickly saw most of the lost ground recovered, while gilts finished the day with gains of up to 4. Whether that will prove enough to drum any great enthusiasm for the new short "tap" on offer this morning remains to be seen, but the Bank's signal that it is not looking for any drop in MLR before the holiday is hardly going to encourage those who might have been looking for a quick "turn".

Meanwhile, the gilt market should at least find the latest Bank of England Bulletin much to its taste. The fight to ensure that inflation continues to come down, and then stays down, is clearly top of the Bank's list of priorities. This, the Bank argues, requires that the formulation of monetary targets for next year, though allowing for real growth in the economy, should take account of the need for inflation to be reduced.

By inference, the Bank also argues for restraint in stimulating the economy. Stimulation through an increase in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement would be self-defeating, it says, if it led to forced monetary growth, which, in turn, forced interest rates. There is no indication, however, as to the kind of PSBR figure that the Bank regards as the happy medium.

A point of interest to holders of the Government "floaters", incidentally, is that the Bank officially admits to having bought in stock (against sales of other stocks), helping the price to remain reasonably stable.



● The new cider excise duty is having an even more catastrophic impact on Bulmer than even the company expected with a 14 per cent volume decline in the half-year to the end of October translating into a slump in pre-tax profits from £2.95m to £1.23m. For a group that is almost wholly dependent on one product and which has made only desultory efforts to expand overseas the operational gearing is necessarily high and while that has worked in its favour in the last few years the new turn of events has hit it with a vengeance.

Since last September the excise duty has added 28 per cent to selling prices which combined with two price increases in the latest reporting period has pushed up prices by some 45 per cent to a level where the earlier price advantage over beer or wine has been whittled away entirely and that has hit off-licence sales in particular.

Despite a further 7.8 per cent price increase last month sales have got off to a better start this half though the 10 per cent increase seen in October has not been followed through since. So pre-tax profits may be only some £21m this year against last year's £39m for a fully taxed p/e ratio of about 11 at 124p.

Economic notebook Hand in hand down separate roads

After a period of blood-letting in the public sector, like that in 1976 when cabinet ministers twice had to axe spending programmes, it is usual for Whitehall to rediscover the virtues of stability and continuity in the conduct of public expenditure. There is every indication that the annual expenditure White Paper to be published in the middle of next month will reflect a fresh endorsement of these virtues.

How far in this direction the coming White Paper will go will soon be clear. But at the most senior level in the Treasury the view is that stability can best be achieved if growth in public spending is modest. Opinion appears to be hardening in favour of a proposal that will limit the growth of public spending to about 2 per cent a year.

The choice of a 2 per cent growth path would, on the face of it, appear to be somewhat arbitrary. It is a little below the historical growth rate of the economy as a whole and its choice would seem to owe much to the present preoccupation with reducing the tax burden and making more resources available to the private sector.

There has always been a conflict of objectives in public spending policy. On the one hand, the efficient provision of public goods and services requires a minimum of disruption and dislocation. On the other, if public spending is to act as a regulator of the economy, rising when business activity in the private sector is depressed

whether public spending ever can be effectively used as a regulator of demand management, even if it is thought that this should be a primary purpose. Indeed, since the report of the Plowden Committee in 1961 it has frequently been argued that public spending was an exceedingly poor instrument of demand management.

The problem is that, in the nature of government expenditure projects, there are large time lags between the decision to make changes to planned spending and the execution of such decisions. It can take one or even two years to get a project off the drawing board and the construction stage. By this time, an economy that might have been in recession when the decision was taken may already have recovered.

While it may take rather less time to run down a project, this cannot be done overnight. A bridge cannot be left half built, neither can new factories be abandoned at a dangerous state of construction.

The general feeling has been that while it may have been the intention in the past to use public spending as a counter-cyclical instrument for managing the economy it has not in practice been successfully used as such.

As an extension of this proposition it is usually argued that tax cuts are a far superior method of stimulating the economy, because their effect is more immediate. This is also a view shared by senior Treasury officials.

However, the argument is not as clear-cut as it is sometimes presented. For a start, there is no guarantee that individuals will spend the extra income resulting from the tax cuts.

What has surprised many economists in the past few years is the high level of household savings. Tax cuts may simply end up in Post Office savings accounts or building society deposit accounts.

Furthermore, even when tax cuts lead to higher spending, there may be a tendency to buy imported goods or goods that are produced by capital-intensive methods and therefore create few extra jobs.

Public spending tends to lead to more employment and fewer imports than tax cuts, at least in its first-round effects.

So where does this leave the argument for using public spending as a regulator of demand management? To some extent, the answer depends on the wider policies being pursued by the Government at the time and the prevailing constraints on the economy.

For better or for worse, the Chancellor and his advisers now believe that the tax burden is too high. In support of this case they observe that a married man on average earnings will this year be paying about 22 per cent of his earnings in income tax, compared with a tenth in 1960, if he were earning only two-thirds of the national average he would still be paying about 16 per cent of his income in tax, compared with less than 5 per cent in 1960.

The converse of this is that public expenditure has risen steadily as a proportion of national output. On present projections the proportion in the financial year 1978-79 will be about 43 per cent.

If the burden is to be reduced, then public expenditure will have to grow more modestly for a time. Mr. Healey is on record as saying that once the tax burden has been reduced the hopes that public expenditure can be allowed to grow as fast as national output in general.

This is fine as long as steady growth in the overall economy can be sustained. But it would be excessive to rigidly to rule out the faster growth of public spending if the economy failed to perform as well as expected.

There are many disadvantages to using government expenditure as an economic regulator, but the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre is unnecessarily restricted by totally abandoning the use of such spending as a policy instrument for supporting the level of demand during the recession.

Melvyn Westlake

Opinion appears to be hardening in favour of a growth limit to public spending of 2 pc a year

and decreasing when private sector activity revives, then some disruption of planned government expenditure is unavoidable.

Admittedly, there have long been doubts about the use of public spending as an economic regulator because of its disruptive effects on the private sector. Like road building and nationalised industry investment, it would stimulate growth, but it would also create a very de-stabilising effect.

A moment's reflection reveals why. For, under these circumstances a fall in overall economic activity would, by dint of the rigid growth relationship between the private and public sectors, mean that government spending would also have to be curtailed. By contrast, when overall economic activity was at a high level, government spending would similarly be permitted to rise.

In any event, instead of public spending being used in a counter-cyclical fashion, according to Keynesian prescriptions, it would accentuate the booms and troughs of the business cycle.

This is surely not what the Treasury can really be proposing. Of course, it is valid to ask

under the Leyland Supercar warranty scheme.

This follows the experiences of a Newcastle man who bought a Leyland Supercar in June last year. He had various problems with it and subsequently followed the Supercar advice and wrote to the managing director of Leyland Cars, Derek Whitaker.

Mr. Whitaker pledged to deal with such matters with the said quickness and efficiency.

The owner's dissatisfaction, however, spurred him to complain to the ASA, which has upheld the complaint because of the lack of evidence that any "effective action" was taken by Leyland.

Leyland Cars, however, said yesterday that it was "a little aggrieved" by the tone of the ASA report.

A spokesman added that the Newcastle owner was "a very difficult man to satisfy". His car had been off the road for three days in the first nine months and later for a week, when he was given a hire car free of charge.

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And Leyland is not the only manufacturer to be scrutinized. The authority agreed with a complaint from Kent that a Peugeot advertisement, maintaining that its new five-door hatchback model was the only one costing less than £2,200, disregarded certain Renault models which were cheaper.

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Pension funds: rich uncle or Aunt Sally?

On the day of the publication of the interim report of the Wilson committee on financial institutions, John Whitmore and (below) Nicholas Hirst look at some of the organizations and men who manage hundreds of millions of pounds

Originally conceived to forestall the growing Labour Party clamour for the nationalization of the leading banks and insurance companies, the Wilson committee inquiry into the functioning of financial institutions has cast its net broadly.

The attitude of those under scrutiny has, by and large, been that a virtue should be made of a necessity. In other words, if the price of removing some of the immediate pressure from the banking and insurance industries was to be a more wide-ranging examination of the financial community, then the occasion should be turned to advantage by showing the outside world once and for all that the financial community had a key role to play in the economy and that it fulfilled this role both efficiently and responsibly.

Whether those who have believed that the financial sector could only benefit by drawing back at least some of the veils of mystery that allegedly surround it will in fact be quite so happy when the Wilson committee has eventually finished its work remains to be seen.

The general feeling has been that the vast weight of evidence so far submitted almost totally vindicates the role of the financial sector in the economy. But that does not mean to say that the committee could not find that there are ways in which, for economic and/or political reasons, this role might not be "improved".

A key area for further scrutiny is inevitably going to be the role of the "institutions", particularly the pension funds and life assurance funds.

These two classes of institu-

prices—of British company securities quoted on the Stock Exchange. For the rest, their money is largely in property (and property finance) and in short-term liquid assets.

Given the size of these assets and the prospect of further strong growth in net cash flow it is hardly surprising that the pension funds and the life assurance industry have been attracting increasing attention. Their power is wondered at, their accountability questioned, their funds covered.

Indeed, with or without the Wilson committee, the issue of the institutions would still be a live one, quite simply because big as they already are, they are going to grow still bigger with the course of time.

One area that has already been the subject of much public and political debate has been that of control over pension fund resources. So far there has been much opposition, not least among pension fund members themselves, to the idea that trade unions should automatically nominate candidates for election to pension fund boards by pension fund members.

Further areas of debate concern the role of the funds in the economy, both in terms of the percentage of savings they draw off from the economy and the way in which the money is invested. Should the funds be left to increase their domination of industrial ownership? Should they be encouraged to invest more money overseas? Should they be encouraged to provide long-term capital for the building societies?

What precisely are those assets? For the most part they are Government stocks, issued to fund the government's debt, and shares in British companies. Between them, the pension and life assurance funds hold about 30 per cent of the £450-plus (nominal) of gilt-edged securities in issue. In addition, they probably hold rather more than 35 per cent of the £53,000m—at current market



Men of power? A quartet of pension fund managers (left to right): Mr. Alfred Singer of the Post Office; Mr. Ralph Langham of Unilever; Mr. Roger Kitson of Hill Samuel; Mr. Kenneth Smith of Reed.

There is a growing feeling in pension fund management that the movement is in grave danger of becoming the Aunt Sally of the Wilson committee on the functioning of City institutions.

In evidence, Sir Harold has drawn attention to the potential of the reserves at the funds' disposal. "They are so powerful," he said, "they do not know how powerful they are."

He added that they could be transforming society more than any government would ever dare to do even if it had a large majority in Parliament.

Within the pension movement there is much doubt as to exactly what Sir Harold meant, but the trustees have received one message clearly. This is that in revivalling the insurance companies in the size of funds invested they have become prime targets for an interventionist government, and the insurance companies, which do not have a large public relations organization ready to defend their role.

The TUC has suggested a £1,000m fund, subscribed by the pension movement, to be used for industrial reorganization, which would be backed by government guarantees.

Opposition is perhaps not as strong as might be expected. The first point all involved in pension management want to get over is that the real power rests with the trustees. They have the responsibility in law of the largest fund in the United Kingdom—the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund, which has 500,000 members and assets of £1,200m.

He believes it was right to subscribe to Finance for Industry and the Equity Bank because they were specialized funds which could seek out the right growth opportunities.

"I would not dismiss the TUC idea," he said. "It is a genuine attempt at full development of new industries then we would want to know more about it."

Others are less keen. Raphael Langham, deputy pensions officer at Unilever, which has 52,000 United Kingdom members in a £300m fund, believes

What the men with the money think

being brought about by the growth of pension funds, but he is certainly not against it. "I am strongly in favour of employee involvement in schemes. I believe they are the best people to look after their own, and their colleagues', money."

The one thing he does not believe is that they will push investment into unproductive areas for political reasons.

What evidence there is suggests that employee representatives are concerned that decisions are made on commercial grounds. A recent decision by an investment manager of one of Britain's largest private funds to reduce holdings in South Africa was extensively questioned by the trustees to establish that it had been done for reasons of prudence, not politics.

"There does not appear to be a conflict between social conscience and maximization of return," says Alfred Singer, chairman of the trustees of the largest fund in the United Kingdom—the Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund, which has 500,000 members and assets of £1,200m.

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that money would either go to a new investment of its own accord or the investment would not be worthwhile. Neither does he think that pension funds led the power Sir Harold Wilson thought they had.

"There would be power if there was just one pension fund. But I think it unlikely that in general we have more than 1 or 2 per cent of any one company, so on our own we have no real power. If all the pension funds spoke with one voice, then we would have power, but clearly we do not."

Undoubtedly part of the argument about the "power" held by pension funds is connected with the belief that they have wrought a change in the way the market operates.

It is hard to draw attention to the fact that pension funds invest money in large tranches. Behind that thought is the idea that concentration of investment has inhibited the small company from raising money either by depressing its rating or by simply leaving it below the size criteria for new investment.

"We were asked questions about this," said Kenneth Smith, formerly with the British Steel Corporation Pension Fund, and now pensions director at Reed International. Reed's United Kingdom fund totals £170m and it has 45,000 members.

"We had Hugh Jenkins of the Coal Board fund with us. He has set up a special fund to get money down from industry. It seemed whenever the fund looked at a proposition other investors had been there already. It was merely the unpromising companies which found it difficult to find funds."

Mr. Smith, who is president of the National Association of Pension Funds, summed up the feelings of many when he said: "We have not saved British industry. We have subscribed for rights issues galore. If there is any profitable venture we are prepared to meet it. The worrying thing is there have been so few investments that have shown they have the promise to meet our eventual liabilities."

Business Diary: Ansell's bitterest man • Food and the flag

reference between Allied Breweries and the advertising agency Doyle Dane Bernbach over the last few months came to a head yesterday with the formal resignation by DDB of all its Allied accounts.

The agency will lose business which had grown from about £200,000 in 1963, when DDB first became involved, to a peak of over £1m last year, so the move will go down in the annals as one of the big agency-client clashes.

The nub of the problem appears to be Allied's move towards central direction of its advertising, and the agency's unwillingness to leave the regional companies, the crisis came when DDB was asked to come up with a new campaign for Ansell's beer instead of developing an existing theme which the agency was highly successful.

Such was the disagreement but Allied offered the alternative of a rival agency. There was a meeting on Tuesday between Peter Lombard, marketing director of Allied, and Brian Aldridge, DDB chairman, at which the latter decided to break the only with Ansell's and Tedley's classic marketing

Walton said that its "Bitterness" campaign for Ansell's and Tedley's classic marketing

case history in transforming attitudes to the brand and helping to boost sales nearly five-fold, despite being heavily outspent by the main competitor, Allied's desire to change successful advertising was "not commercially right" for either party. The brewery has yet to appoint a replacement.

Paul Amos has made a corner in one version of the business of selling refrigerators to eskimos—that of selling wheat products to the Canadians.

He is the deputy managing director of the Westabix group, whose Westabix and Alpen breakfast cereals—made in part from Canadian wheat—are, he says, on sale in every Canadian supermarket.

Amos yesterday became chairman of the British Food Export Council. He succeeds Richard Palmer, chairman of the international division of Associated Biscuits, and wants to rope into BFEC notable non-joiners like Cadbury Schweppes, Mars and Unigate.

Amos told Business Diary yesterday that many smaller firms who are not exporting much could sell more abroad in British food promotions which BFEC organizes.

For example, Woodward's, a Canadian supermarket chain, will be pushing British foods for seven weeks next summer. Individual British manufac-



Westabix's Paul Amos: what's eating him?

turers Amos says, might not be able to interest such a group. Westabix is a family-owned private company with headquarters at Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, and is the only British-owned major in the British breakfast cereal market. About 12 per cent of production is exported and that share is increasing.

Amos says that Britain imports about £4,500m-worth of food a year and exports about £1,500m-worth, with the balance narrowing in Britain's favour.

British Leyland has been ripped on the knuckles by the Advertising Standards Authority today for its use of the phrase "quickly and efficiently" in literature describing to buyers of new cars the services offered

under the Leyland Supercar warranty scheme.

This follows the experiences of a Newcastle man who bought a Leyland Supercar in June last year. He had various problems with it and subsequently followed the Supercar advice and wrote to the managing director of Leyland Cars, Derek Whitaker.

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LONDON SHOP PROPERTY TRUST LIMITED

Sir Cyril Black reports on the year ended 30th April 1977

Results for the year.

	1977	1976
Profit before tax	538,079	500,604
Cost of Dividends	378,395	374,502
Shareholders funds	10,741,757	9,740,303

- Property revenue up from £1.21M to £1.26M.
- Property and investment trading increased from £196,000 to £342,000.
- Income from Associated Companies rose to £178,000 from £61,000.
- Shareholders funds £10.7M compared with £9.7M.
- During first eight months of calendar year 1977 rental increases arranged amounting to about £220,000 per annum.
- Properties valued in 1972 at £3.03M have since been sold for aggregate prices of £3.75M.
- Professional valuation of properties to take place at 30th April, 1978.
- Future of Group viewed with restrained optimism.

GUINNESS

Preliminary Announcement of
Profits and Dividend
52 weeks ended 24th September, 1977

	1977	1976
Notes	2000	2000
TURNOVER	498,849	413,878
PROFITS		
TRADING PROFIT	2	
Brewing	29,173	31,261
Confectionery	293	487
General Trading	6,297	3,499
Leisure	576	126
Plastics and Materials Handling	2,562	980
Property	137	157
Interest charges	38,978	36,158
	6,333	6,069
Investment income	32,645	30,089
Share of profits of associated companies	987	8,306
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	29,450	39,312
Taxation	18,236	18,198
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	21,214	21,114
Minority interests	2,936	2,203
Extraordinary items	18,278	18,911
	2,147	2,690
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO STOCKHOLDERS	16,131	16,221
DIVIDENDS	6,051	5,348
RETAINED PROFIT OF THE GROUP	10,080	10,873
EARNINGS PER 25p STOCK UNIT	21.3p	22.2p

PROPOSED FINAL DIVIDEND FOR 1977

The Directors propose a payment on 10th February, 1978 of a final dividend of 4.6387p per 25p stock unit.

The proposed final dividend together with the associated tax credit is equivalent to 7.0283p (6.339p) making a gross equivalent of the total dividends for the year 10.6350p (9.6683p). This represents an increase of 10% compared with last year which is the maximum permissible under the current counter-inflation legislation.

NOTES

- The following table analyses turnover by sales to customers located in each territory—

	1977	1976
	£m	£m
United Kingdom	227.9	191.8
Republic of Ireland	147.7	131.7
Overseas	123.2	90.3
	498.8	413.8

- (a) Trading profit is after charging depreciation of £10,643,000 (£9,737,000) and profit sharing scheme £1,681,000 (£1,869,000).
- (b) The following table shows the trading profit of holding and subsidiary companies resident in each territory—

	1977	1976
	£m	£m
United Kingdom (including exports)	13.4	8.6
Republic of Ireland (including exports to U.K. and overseas)	15.4	18.3
Overseas	10.2	8.8
	39.0	35.7

* Figures not comparable with previous years when the analysis was on the basis of profits attributable to sales in home and overseas markets.

- (c) The increase of £1.4m in overseas trading profit includes £0.3m which can be attributed to the conversion of this year's profit at exchange rates which were more favourable than those used in converting last year's profit.
- White Child & Boney Ltd. became a subsidiary of the Guinness Group on 14th February, 1977. In view of the short period between 14th February and 27th March, 1977, the date to which the interim results of White Child & Boney Ltd. were made up, the results of the plastics and materials handling division only include the figures for that company's second half year.
- The attributable proportion of profits is included in respect of the following associated companies: Harp Lager Ltd., Carrell & Cochrane Group Ltd., Guinness Chana Ltd., Guinness (Nigeria) Ltd., Sierra Leone Brewery Ltd., Savage Smith & Co. Ltd., Tampion Cider Co. Ltd. and associated companies of Morrison Son & Jones International Ltd.
- (a) Taxation includes deferred taxation and consists of—

	1977	1976
	£m	£m
Holding and subsidiary companies	2000	2000
Taxation arising in—		
United Kingdom	5,725	4,323
Republic of Ireland	4,572	5,070
Overseas	4,171	3,490
Associated companies—share of taxation	15,568	13,883
	2,668	4,315
	18,236	18,198

- (b) U.K. Corporation tax has been provided at the rate of 53% (52%).
- Extraordinary items include charges relating to—

	1977	1976
	£m	£m
Revenue expenditure arising in connection with modernisation of Dublin brewery	2,259	1,874
Terminal costs mainly relating to non-brewing activities	991	408
Net book loss on disposal of properties and investments and repayment of currency borrowings	396	347
Provision to write down premiums previously capitalised as goodwill on acquisition of shares in subsidiary companies	3,346	979
Less tax relief and minority interests	1,099	1,318
	2,147	2,690

Summarised Group Balance Sheet at 24th September, 1977

	1977	1976
Notes	2000	2000
SOURCES OF CAPITAL		
Ordinary stockholders' equity	134,497	120,670
Deferred taxation, provisions and outside shareholders' interests	40,731	32,719
Loans	58,962	46,088
	234,190	199,477
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL		
Fixed Assets	141,631	126,321
Goodwill	15,552	13,570
Investments	32,360	29,994
Net current assets excluding liquid funds	55,771	46,257
Cash and deposits	17,000	11,927
	262,314	228,069
Less bank overdrafts and short term loans	28,124	28,592
	234,190	199,477

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

GENERAL
Group turnover is up by 21%, but trading profit by only 8%. The source of profits has markedly changed this year, about 25% now coming from our non-brewing activities.

INFLATION ACCOUNTING

The approximate effect of applying the interim recommendation published by the Accounting Standards Committee on 4th November, 1977 would be to reduce the group profit before taxation by £14.8m (37%). This reduction arises from the deduction of £20.3m, representing additional depreciation of £12.2m and the cost of sales adjustment of £8.1m and the addition of a gearing adjustment of £5.5m.

DEFERRED TAXATION

The approximate effect of adopting the principles contained in the proposed statement of standard accounting practice on deferred taxation (ED19) would have been to reduce the Group's taxation charge by £3.0m (£2.7m) after allowing for Advance Corporation Tax of £1.2m (£0.7m) not immediately recoverable. After adjusting for minority interests earnings would have increased by £4.8m (£2.7m) to £23.1m (£21.6m) representing 26.9p (25.4p) per 25p Stock Unit.

BREWING

Trading profit in the Republic of Ireland fell by nearly £3.5m demonstrating the effects of a year's price freeze during times of inflation.

Sales in Great Britain, which had suffered during the exceptionally hot summer of 1976 showed a welcome recovery, checked however by the decline in people's spending power.

Our overseas brewing operations have produced another excellent performance. Our existing markets remain buoyant and we continue to explore new ones, with encouraging results.

GENERAL TRADING

Morrison Son & Jones have again increased their profits overseas and continue to expand successfully in the home markets.

PLASTICS AND MATERIALS HANDLING

GPG and WCB have increased their profits substantially and are well poised to take advantage of any opportunities for further growth.

LEISURE

Our leisure interests in both cruising and holiday centres are expanding and we look forward to another record year in 1978.

ARTHUR GUINNESS SON AND COMPANY LIMITED

Britons in employment take much larger proportion of personal incomes

How rewards are shared

Europa

Last month we showed the contribution of the service and manufacturing sectors to the European countries' incomes. This month we discuss how the division between people, companies and government stands before redistribution through taxes and benefits.

The bulk of national income goes to the personal sector—about 75 per cent in Germany to 90 per cent in Italy. The division between the different sources of personal income shows even more variation. In Britain people in employment take a much larger share than in the other three countries. The high figure is partly because of the low United Kingdom figure for employer social security contributions; but, even if these are added, employment incomes take 60 per cent against less than 60 per cent elsewhere.

The convention is to count employer contributions as part of employment incomes, but no one, not even economists, do so when asked about their own salaries.

An alternative is to treat these contributions as an indirect tax on labour. On this basis, the French and Italian Governments take more than one quarter of the national income in indirect taxes against one fifth in Germany and one seventh in the United Kingdom—the proportion is below that suggested by the table since insurance companies and pension funds in Britain still take a substantial share of employer contributions; in the other three countries it is negligible.

Italy and France have high agricultural incomes; this explains part but not all of the contribution to personal income from rent and self-employment, the remainder represents the higher degree of self-

employment in other areas such as retailing.

Apart from this the personal sector now receives only a negligible reward from the investment it has made in government and industry. Only the United Kingdom still has any pretensions to being a capitalist economy. Even here net interest, dividends, etc., account for only about 5 per cent of the total.

Besides the incomes shown in the table, pensions and other social benefits amounted to 21 per cent of national income in France, Germany and Italy but only 12 per cent in Britain. The figures are not shown in the table because they are largely paid by the government out of taxation. However, in the United Kingdom about 15 per cent of national income is paid as pensions by insurance companies and pension funds in return for contributions and could, therefore, be included as a return to capital.

This would make the state benefit figure for Britain even

INCOME BEFORE DIRECT TAXES AND BENEFITS⁽¹⁾

	Germany	France	UK	Italy
Gross wages and salaries ⁽²⁾	48	40	42	42
Employers social security payments	10	13	8	11
Rent ⁽³⁾ and self employment	15	22	11	31
Net interest, dividends, etc.	3	2	4	0
Transfers to or from non-government sources	-1	n	n	n
Total personal sector	74	78	62	84
Companies and financial institutions	15	9	9	3
Government indirect taxes less subsidies	11	13	9	7
Government residue ⁽⁴⁾	-1	n	n	-1
Balancing item ⁽⁵⁾	-1	n	n	-1
n = less than 0.5				

(1) Source—National Accounts, Detailed Tables 1970-75, Statistical Office of the European Communities.

UK figures updated from Central Statistical Office data.

German figures are for 1974, remainder for 1975.

(2) Including employee social security contributions and profit sharing.

(3) Other than rent on land which is included in real interests, etc.

(4) Net interest, rent, etc. before taxes.

(5) The effect of taxes and benefits paid to the rest of the world.

smaller. Part of the reason for the low figure is that indirect taxes are not as great as elsewhere. This means that pensioners do not need such a high proportion of national income, the percentage will increase since the British Government plans to raise more money through indirect taxation.

A further factor is the greater proportion of health and other social services in the United Kingdom which are supplied in kind instead of against remuneration.

Outside the personal sector companies receive from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the national income as earnings which they use for taxation and investment. Germany's high proportion here helps her industries to invest.

Government receives an income from two sources. Through indirect taxes and from other transactions such as rent and the profits of public enterprises. The income from these other transactions just about balances with government interest payments.

France is the country where the government takes the most income through indirect taxes and Italy the least. The low indirect taxes on consumption are, however, balanced by her very high taxes on employment. As a result the United Kingdom is the country where expenditure—the subject of next month's article—is least affected by taxation.

James Rothman

FINANCIAL NEWS

Carling of Canada to cut its US losses

Carling O'Keefe, of Canada, is used to selling its loss-plagued United States unit, Carling National Brewing Company.

Analysts welcome the news. "It will be the best thing to happen to the company in a long time", one analyst said.

Carling O'Keefe is 50.1 per cent owned by Rothmans of Pall Mall Canada, which is controlled by the Rothmans group of United Kingdom.

After years of steadily maintaining it did not plan to dispose of its United States operations, Carling O'Keefe disclosed last week that negotiations which could lead to the sale were in progress. The company did not elaborate at the time. But Mr John Lockwood, chairman, said that an announcement was planned this week.

Mr Lockwood said the price of any transaction would be "in line with the book value of the United States company less accumulated losses". He would not be specific but indicated the amount would be between \$25m (about £12.5m) and \$30m.

P & O Australia issue

Sydney brokers J. B. Wers & Son says that the 625 million \$A1 per share issue by P & O Australia at \$A1.80 a share closed heavily oversubscribed. The issue represents 25 per cent of P & O Australia's post-issue share capital, with the Registrar and Oriental Steam Navigation Company Ltd holding the remaining 75 per cent. The offer opened on December 12 and was due to close not later than December 23. A spokesman for the Sydney Stock Exchange said the shares are expected to be listed around mid-January.

Club Mediterranée

Club Mediterranée, the holiday resort operators, says that its pre-tax turnover for the financial year ended on October 31 came to 1,140m francs (about £126.8m), an increase of 19.7 per cent over the previous year's total of 953m francs.

PUK's sharp rise

Pechamy Uplon-Kohlmann, France's major aluminium and chemical group, expects to show consolidated net earnings of between 350m francs (about £38.8m) to 500m francs this year. This is up from 153m francs in 1976, the company president, M Philippe Thomas, told analysts. The anticipated profit compares with a loss of 159m francs in 1975.

International

Ansett-Avis deal

Melbourne, Dec 14.—Ansett Transport Industries of Australia has agreed to acquire the entire issued capital of Avis Rent-a-Car System and subsidiaries holding the family interests of the late Mr Eric McFie, founder of Avis in Australia. Ansett chairman, Sir Reginald Ansett, announced. He said that settlement is expected to take place this month but the transaction is conditional on the approval of the Minister for Transport.

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BRITISH EMPIRE SECURITIES AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED

The Eighty-eighth Annual General Meeting of British Empire Securities and General Trust Limited was held on 14th December, 1977 in London. The following is an extract from the statement by Mr R. P. Laurie, J.P. the Chairman, which has been circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1977.

After a year of improving conditions your Board are pleased to be able to report substantially increased revenue and a material improvement in the asset value of your shares. It has been possible to raise the dividend for the year from 0.53p to 0.60p per share and we feel confident that this rate can at least be maintained in 1977/78.

During the past twelve months we have invested rather more money than usual in unquoted securities. This is simply because more opportunities arose for this type of investment, which we have always been prepared to consider rather than a conscious policy move. We have continued in our endeavour to improve your income and to increase the value of your investment by the traditional means of a fair balance between fixed interest securities and equities.

For the future, let us hope that public opinion will assert itself as the most powerful influence in the conduct of affairs instead of that exercised by powerful minority groups at all levels and in every sphere of life. We may then look forward to healthy, free enterprise, personal liberty and self reliance.

A summary of the results for the year—

Revenue	£244,166 (£220,498)
Net Revenue (after Taxation and Expenses)	£142,428 (£125,542)
Earnings per 5p Ordinary Share	70p (62p)
Dividend per 5p Ordinary Share	0.60p (0.53p)
Net Asset Value per 5p Ordinary Share	13.49p (9.72p)

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London. It does not constitute an invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities.

INCO LIMITED

U.S. \$50,000,000 8¼% Notes Due 1984
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SOCIETE GENERALE	UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND (SECURITIES)
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The Notes and the Debentures have been admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange in London. Particulars of the Issuer and the Notes and the Debentures are available in the *Estal Statistical Services Limited* and may be obtained during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including January 5th, 1978 from the brokers to the issue.

KITCAT & AITKEN
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December 15, 1977.

هكذا امن الاصل

Christmas Gift Guide

For Everyone

For Everyone

For Him

Save £6.50 on a Polaroid Colour Swinger at Argos.

Capture the fun of Christmas as it happens with these special Christmas offers—
 Colour Swinger £10.95
 Super Colour Swinger £12.95
 Super Colour Swinger £12.95
 Remember low Argos prices on Polaroid films too!



Colour Swinger Cat. No. 5602427
 Normal Argos Price £17.45
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SAVE £6.50
famous names at discount prices.
 *Polaroid & Swinger are trademarks of the Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A.

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for that special gift
 for that special person

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BUDGET PRICE SKI CLOTHING
 South. Anoraks, Gloves, Insulators, Vests, Jackets, Bibs, Hats, Down filled Parkas.
 Travel and Sports Centre
 406 Strand, London, W.C. 2R
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 Bring in old for extra discount.
 All credit cards accepted.

A JEWEL BOX

In red or black hide
 A handsome memo pad with red and black covers. Red cover has gold lettering. Black cover has silver lettering. Both have a gold or silver clasp. Price £1.95 each. Free delivery in London.

PARROTS
 Silver Jubilee Christmas Catalogue.
 011 present suggestions.
 Special Christmas Stocking.
 000 post free from.
 66 Fulham Road, SW3.

ETHNIC ANTIQUE SILVER JEWELLERY
 From Ethiopia, India, Persia, etc.
 In our new book, "Ethnic Antique Silver Jewellery", we have collected a wide range of beautiful silver jewellery from various countries. The book is available for £2.95. Free delivery in London.

COMPAGNIE FINANCIERE DE PARIS ET DES PAYS-BAS

Capitalisation Issue 1977
 Issue of 2,208,000 new shares of FF.100 nominal

In accordance with the resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 17th December 1977, the Board of Directors has decided to issue 2,208,000 new shares of FF.100 nominal value.

There will be no entitlement in respect of fractions.
 The new shares which rank for dividend as from 1st January 1977 are being issued on the basis of the Company's announcement dated 27th December 1977. The new shares are available to the holders of the Company's shares as at the close of business on 15th December 1977.

Application has been made in Paris to list the new shares on the Paris Bourse and will also be made for the new shares to be admitted to the listing of the Stock Exchange, London.

Procedure in the United Kingdom wishing to claim their entitlement for new shares must lodge the following:-
 1. In respect of shares certificates—London No. 100 on or after 15th December 1977.
 2. In respect of shares held in the name of a nominee—on or after 15th December 1977.

S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.,
 25, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF.

Temporary receipts will be issued and Lodgement forms are obtainable on application.

Authorised Dealers will be advised at a later date when the new shares are available for exchange for Temporary Receipts.

15th December, 1977. London: S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

DIVIDEND NOTICES
 CANADIAN PACIFIC Limited (Incorporated in Canada)
 DIVIDEND NOTICE
 At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on 14th December 1977, it was resolved to pay a dividend of 10¢ per share on the outstanding 250,000,000 shares of the company.

15th December, 1977. London: S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Soviet journals in English

Subscriptions for 1978		
Soviet Union	12 issues p.a.	£1.70 p.a.
International Affairs	12	£2.20
Moscow News	52	£4.40
New Times	52	£4.40
Far Eastern Affairs	4	£3.00
Soviet Film	12	£1.70
Soviet Military Review	12	£3.00
Soviet Woman	12	£1.70
Travel to the Soviet Union	6	£1.40
Sputnik	12	£3.30
Social Sciences	12	£4.00
Sport in the USSR	12	£1.10
Asia and Africa Today	6	£1.70
News from Ukraine	52	£1.60

Subscriptions to parallel Russian editions also available
Central Books
 37 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8PS

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A gift subscription brings 12 monthly issues plus the traditional Christmas Number. Each month your gift will entertain and inform, and will also remind the recipient of your generosity. We'll send a greetings card containing your message, with the first issue. Send £2.50 (plus p.p.) for each order plus name and address of yourself and those you wish to receive your gift. To Subscription Manager, 23-29 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3AL

WORLD PRE-HISTORY IN NEW PERSPECTIVE

This new book by Graham Clark traces the origins and development of human culture, from the earliest times to the present day. It is a comprehensive and up-to-date survey of the subject, written in a clear and accessible style. Price £4.95. Free delivery in London.

THE APPLE TREE
 Edited by David Mervin
 This book is a collection of stories and poems about the apple tree. It is a beautiful and inspiring book, suitable for children and adults alike. Price £3.95. Free delivery in London.

LUOMO ELEGANTE
 The new book by Giorgio Armani. It is a collection of fashion designs and illustrations. Price £12.95. Free delivery in London.

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A wonderful gift for your husband or boyfriend. Mortons Gift for Men is a collection of 12 issues of the magazine "Mortons Gift for Men". It is a beautiful and inspiring book, suitable for children and adults alike. Price £4.95. Free delivery in London.

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION.

The hand that wields the pen writes a gripping word. Or so last year's letter writing competition would have believed. So this year we would like to test your powers of persuasion even more by asking you to draft an official epistle.

So, at the same time as solving your present problems, write a letter and win yourself one of these fabulous prizes.

A Beer Pack. 24 bottles Löwenbräu Beer, one of the world's most famous beers.

B.A. 3lb presentation box of Bendicks hand made chocolates.

C. Liqueurs Pack. 1/2 bottle Bols Apricot Brandy, 1/2 bottle Bols Cherry Brandy, 1/2 bottle Bols Creme de Menthe, 1/2 bottle Bols Dry Orange Curacao.

D. Wine Pack. 1 bottle Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Champagne, 1 bottle Croft Original Sherry, 1 bottle Croft Distinction Port, 1 bottle La Cour Pavillon 1973.

E. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

F. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

G. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

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AB. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

AC. A box of 25 Bolivar Bonita Havana Cigars.

HOW TO ENTER
 First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three sample questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide).

Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 20

Clue: How can you save £6.50?

Clue: Where will you find the Colour Centre?

Clue: You will find them on the Quay at St. Ives?

Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic wardens every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summonsed for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year, you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

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Please send details of qualifications and experience to the Foreign Recruitment Manager, Iran National Airlines Corp., P.O. Box 280, Tehran, Iran.

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Sales Executive

required for well-established wharfe company on the Thames to assist Sales Director in obtaining new business. Must have forwarding, shipping and ship broking experience, also personality to negotiate with customers at all levels. Occasional foreign travel involved. Preferable age group 28-35. Good salary will be paid plus company car and other benefits.

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EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL

Entry for September, 1978, preliminary announcement.

BOYS for Scholarship, Exhibitions and Foundation awards are examined in May 1978, at Blundell's. Candidates must be under 14 on 1st June.

BOYS for Music Scholarships will be examined on Thursday, 22nd February, at Blundell's; candidates must be able to pass the Common Entrance Examination.

GIRL candidates for Vth form 'A' level courses must apply by 31st January and be prepared to come for interview on 5th March. There are 4 boarding places and 14 day places next year. Candidates will qualify academically by C.C.E. 'O' level passes.

For details of each, please apply to the Head Master, Blundell's School, Tiverton, Devon.

ROYAL NAVAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HASLEMERE

Examination 7th March, 1978, open to girls due to sit their entrance exam in May 1978. In 1981, for a scholarship of £180 per annum. Details and application forms from the Secretary, Completed forms required by 22nd February, 1978.

EDUCATIONAL

G.C.E. DEGREE and Professional Education. For details, apply to the Secretary, G.C.E. Degree, 10, Millgate, London W1A 4UB. Tel. 01-585 5431.

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Motoring

The permissive Danes submit to stringent law

A visit to Denmark has left me with the conclusion that British road users are a strong minority of them — are narrowly unwilling to accept obvious and effective safety measures, preferring the "freedom" to get themselves hurt or maimed.

The two most striking examples are the compulsory wearing of seat belts and police powers to carry out breath tests at random. The mere mention of either in Britain will provoke cries of outrage, yet the Danes have no such qualms and with both do so more or less gladly.

Seatbelt wearing for drivers and front seat passengers became compulsory in Denmark on January 1, 1976. The measure passed through Parliament with a two-to-one majority and was aimed to effect, one police patrolman told me, had come across only three drivers so adamantly opposed to the measure that they were prepared to pay the fine instead.

In Britain, opponents of seat-belt wearing argue that it is an infringement of personal liberty. I never heard this in Denmark, which can be very free in some areas as Lord Louis and his supporters will testify. The fine for not wearing a seat belt is £10 and it is automatic.

The other main objection raised in Britain is that compulsion would be difficult to enforce. In Denmark, it appears to be self-enforcing in that the average wearing rate since the law came in has risen from 27 per cent to around 90 per cent. Since police patrols are few and far between, this hardly because of a fear of being caught.

Interestingly, the wearing rate is even higher in Copenhagen than on the open road. Usually it is the other way round: people will belt up on the motorway but not in the city.

So what is to be done? The British Government set up the Blennerhassett Committee to advise on the drink and

Towards a European styling: Datsun's new Violet coupe.

driving law and the committee reported in April, 1976. Among its conclusions were that police discretion to carry out breath tests should be "unfettered".

Although the Government accepted Blennerhassett and professes to be deeply concerned about drunken drivers, nearly two years have passed and nothing has been done to implement the report apart from a Home Office evaluation — still far from complete — of alternative breath test devices.

The permitted blood/alcohol limit in Denmark is 80 milligrammes per millilitre as it is here, but in other respects their laws are tougher. There is a rising scale of punishments, including imprisonment, depending on how far over the limit the driver is; and three drink/driving offences mean disqualification for life.

Motorists who lose their licences usually have to take a new driving test to get them back, which is a sensible provision. On top of this, the police may carry out breath tests at random.

In view of the emotions stirred in Britain by even the thought of random tests, I was naturally interested to see how the measure had been received in Denmark. With very little opposition, I was told. Motorists on the whole do not seem being asked to spend a couple of minutes taking a test and accept the necessity for it.

In fact, the police do not look every hundred yards ready to produce an inebriated driver just for the hell of it. Normally the test is given only if the police officer has reasonable suspicion or as part of the periodic spot checks on drivers and their vehicles which are a feature of Danish traffic control. But the power is there.

Lack of Respect
Even the laws we do have seem less respected than they are in Denmark. Take speed limits. A report just published by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory found that 35 per cent of drivers were exceeding the 70 mph speed limit on motorways and 8 per cent were going faster than 80 mph.

Yet in Denmark, which has a similar motorway maximum of 110 kilometres per hour, it was merely passed when I stuck to the letter of the law and even when I deliberately bogged the outside lane there was none of that impatient

flashing and hooting that happens in Britain. Two Danish surveys underline the point: one showed a 40 per cent drop in motorway deaths after introduction of the limit; the other suggested that only 3.6 per cent of motorway drivers travelled fast enough to risk prosecution, given that the police normally allow a 10 per cent margin for error.

My next example concerns headlights. In both countries there is a legal obligation to switch lights on in poor daytime visibility. During out of Copenhagen one grey, but not foggy, morning I estimated that more than 80 per cent of vehicles were using dipped headlights; and how much easier they were to pick out. In Britain the proportion would probably have been around 20 per cent.

Fresh Violets
Whatever the reasons for the success of Japanese cars in Britain, crisp and attractive styling has not usually been one of them. Although there have been exceptions, usually from Honda, the typical Japanese bodyshell has been unimaginative in shape, over-emphasised and distinctly short on window area. The last is not only bad aesthetically, but cuts the driver's range of vision.

Recently, however, Japanese car stylists have shown signs of starting to catch up with the best European designs. Each new Datsun model, and there have been quite a number recently, has moved away from the dreary shape to which we have not used, towards a more elegant line with slimmer pillars.

Latest proof is the mark three version of the small/medium car, the Violet. It has an entirely new body, longer, lower and wider than before, with 10 per cent more glass area and the minimum of bright metal. It could easily be a Ford or Opel (though no one would confuse it with, say, a Citroën).

Mechanically the range is much as before but with two significant exceptions. A new 1307cc overhead valve engine has been brought in to supplement the existing 1500cc unit and coils have replaced the old-fashioned leaf springs in the rear suspension. The new Violets go on sale here early next month at prices from £2,749 to £3,140.

Peter Waymark

Broadcasting

9.25 pm BBC1

The number of people in Britain who sneer at the razzmatazz and brittle cattle-marketry of the beauty-queen game must be almost equal to the millions who watch every Miss United Kingdom show. Tonight John Pitman takes a very close look at The Big Time as Jane Manders found it when she took the plunge from quiet obscurity.

10.15 pm BBC1
Olympia's pre-Christmas show jumping opens with the Turkey Stakes, with the world's top riders trying to take home at least some of the £20,000 prize money.—I.R.R.

BBC 1

9.25 pm, On the Move, 12.45, 12.50, 1.00, Pebble Mill, 1.45, 2.00, Heads and Tails, 3.55, 4.00, School, 4.20, Lippy Lion, 4.25, 4.30, 4.40, Charlie Brown, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 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